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VOP REPORTS ASSASSINATION OF 'AGENT' IN RAMALLAH

JN0917Z1Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] A responsible source of the Palestinian revolution has announced the following: Yesterday the people's judgment was executed in Ramallah against the agent 'Abd an-Nur Janhu, a collaborator with the Zionist occupation authorities. The Palestinian revolution, while claiming responsibility (?for inflicting punishment) on this traitorous agent, warns those dealing with the occupation [authorities] against our people that their end will be similar to that of Janhu.

PFLP Claims Responsibility

JN0919345Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] forces operating inside the occupied homeland today issued a military communique on the liquidation by one of its fighters of the traitor 'Abd an-Nur Khalil Janhu in the city of Ramallah.

In its communique the PFLP mentioned a number of traitorous deeds performed by this agent. It said that he was involved in all kinds of agentry for the enemy and had been performing his job as a broker for the enemy in a twisted manner. He was not satisfied with his traditional role as agent but also played a political role to promote As-Sadat's recent plot of liquidation. The PFLP said that the agent Janhu once shot dead an innocent citizen because he called on the masses to boycott his election in the 1976 municipality elections. The Zionist authorities acquitted the agent Janhu, who did not even finish 1 day in custody. The PFLP said that despite its repeated warnings to the agents and to Janhu in particular he did not repent, but continued his contacts with the enemy. This left the PFLP with no alternative but to execute him.

Concluding its communique, the PFLP again warned all agents and brokers that it will liquidate anyone who indulges in dealing with the enemy and plotting against the cause of our people.

JALLUD ADDRESSES ARAB STUDENTS CONFERENCE

LD0915567 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli--The Arab students conference has issued a statement, which reads:

At the invitation of the General Union of Students of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the first Arab students conference under the banner "no reconciliation [sulh], no negotiation, no recognition and no relinquishing of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people" was held in the Jamahiriyah from 5 to 9 February. The conference was attended by a number of Arab and world progressive student organizations. It was opened by Dr Muhammad Ahmad ash-Sharif, secretary of education. The opening was attended by the brother heads of foreign liaison offices and societies under the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud took part in the conference and delivered a keynote speech which was considered by the participants in the conference to be a political framework and which summed up the guidelines of the participating delegations. The speech covered the following:

Revolution is the responsibility of young Arab people, who are considered the influential energetic force in society, and the defense of the land and the protection of sanctities falls above all on their shoulders. Young people are the bridge over which the Arab nation crosses from the stage of backwardness and subservience to the stage of progress, freedom and final emancipation. The 1 September Revolution is a revolution of youth, and for this reason we devote special attention to the youth sector because we believe that it provides the hope and is the effective and influential group in the mobility of societies.

The raising of the slogan of no conciliation, no negotiation, no recognition and no relinquishing the rights of the Palestinian Arab people creates responsibilities for daily struggle and practical commitments which demand that statements be turned into action programs which must be persistently implemented. Issuing statements and enlarging on them is not an end in itself. The aim is to insure that mass actions should become ever stronger in accordance with the goals of our Arab nation. We are concerned about the absence of the role of the Arab masses in this critical phase which our Arab nation is experiencing, whereas in the sixties these masses constituted a strategic force for President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir and the Arab revolutionary movement.

Regrettably, mass action has become calcified and rigid as a result of the methods of restraint and terror of the authorities. They have played a fundamental role in curbing the popular masses, which has turned the mass organizations into government-dominated organizations, capable of action only insofar as the authority and its various tactics of domination and transient maneuvers and policies have allowed. Scope should be provided for the movement of the popular masses. They should be freed from the octopus of authority so that they can clearly define their attitude toward freedom, because in the absence of the masses, the rulers would be able to gain approval for their reactionary, imperialist plans.

We call for an upsurge in the struggle in the Arab land for the liberation of Palestine commensurate with the upsurge in the struggle in southern Africa. We demand that imperialism and Zionism in the Arab homeland be placed in the same situation as the whites in southern Africa, where a solution is being sought for the whites, who are no longer in the role of rulers and colonists. We adhere to the slogan "no conciliation, no negotiations with and no recognition of the racist Zionist enemy and complete liberation from the river to the sea and the elimination of the so-called State of Israel," considering it a colonial racist phenomenon of an aggressive nature. We are not against the Oriental Jews of Palestine but are against the Zionist racist entity, which seeks to impose a de facto situation on the Arab nation.

We reject peace imposed with force. Genuine peace is founded on justice and the right of people to self-determination. Hence, peace in the Arab region will only come about through the return of the Palestinian Arab people to their land, when they can determine their destiny and rebuild the Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

The waves of Jews who came from Europe, Russia and America should return to where they came from. They are Jews in faith but they are or British, American and Russian origin and thus have no justification for being in Arab Palestine.

The role of the Arab masses is being gradually reduced. This has been noticeable since 1956. This demands that young people, being the energetic group, should shoulder their responsibility at this serious stage the Arab nation is experiencing. The influence of the Arab masses is not as it should be. Otherwise things would be different now. We are facing a catastrophe more serious than the occupation of Arab land in 1948. The conflict between us and Zionism is not a struggle for borders but is in fact a conflict about existence. It is a conflict between Arab nationalism and racist Jewish nationalism.

Certain Arab regimes are following a course of distracting young people and preventing them from carrying out their real role. They are creating internal problems for them and destroying them materially and psychologically. While the negative attitudes of some Arab youths within the Arab homeland are justified as a result of the repression, domination and terror of fascist reactionary governments, there is no justification for the negative attitude of Arab youths outside the homeland. Young people within the homeland and outside it should shoulder their full responsibilities and should face up to possible torture, imprisonment and arrest.

It is not right for some individuals to be responsible for the rest of the popular masses. Therefore, the struggle should be escalated and the role the people's masses used to play in the fifties and sixties should be restored. The student masses should bear their responsibilities in full, whether they are inside or outside the homeland.

Struggle and prosperity are opposites. Either we struggle and bear difficulties and [illegible] hardships, or we take things easy and concern ourselves with making ourselves look [illegible] and living in comfort. The consequences of struggle are hard. I am a struggler [illegible] life and death are equal. I am a revolutionary and not a ruler. I prefer to be [illegible] materially rather than see our development drained of its political, economic and [illegible] context and see the rightwing infiltrate it and see how it is contained by reaction [illegible] the enemies of the revolution. Popular organizations should be remote from diplomatic language and verbiage. Regrettably, this is what occurred in the Arab people's congress. They should express their view with frankness about events without considering anybody's feelings about it.

(?I) appeal to the young people of the Arab nation from the ocean to the gulf not to capitulate to the present local, Arab and international conditions. They must remain vigilant, for the Arab masses will not regain the role they used to play unless young people, who are the effective energetic strength, regain their role and shoulder their responsibilities.

The struggle of the Lebanese national movement in the present difficult circumstances constitutes an important lesson of struggle which the Arab popular masses should benefit from. Unless accompanied by energetic struggle, fiery speeches are just a waste of time. Statements by young people should be accompanied by struggle and revolutionary action to put flesh on these statements and make them serious and effective.

Arab reaction does not want liberation. It fears it because the status quo is in its interests. A revolutionary society of social reforms is a prerequisite for building liberations, and this threatens the interests, palaces and privileges of Arab reaction. The financial assistance given by a reactionary state is aimed solely at maintaining its positions and seats of power.

We adhere to the full rights for the Palestinian people and reject all expressions and terms designed to rob the Palestinian people of their rights and to hoodwink them with diplomatic arguments, and we reject the establishment of a farcial puppet Palestinian state on part of Palestinian soil. We adhere to the right of liberation from the river to the sea and the elimination of the so-called racist State of Israel. If the present generations fail in this, the coming generations will shoulder their responsibilities and will carry out the liberation of the land and the removal of this alien body.

We consider the October war a war of taking up positions [tahrik] and not a war of liberation. We placed on record our stand before the war broke out. Although we were not responsible for that battle, since it was play acting which resulted in the occupation of more Egyptian and Syrian land and since it was considered a political defeat which resulted in the Arabs' accepting resolutions Nos 242 and 338, nevertheless, we shouldered our responsibilities and participated with men and equipment.

The funds of the reactionary Arabs are regrettably diverting U.S. weapons to Israel. They are not concerned with the liberation of the land as much as maintaining their interests and privileges. The Palestinian cause is not a cause of Arab rulers. It is a cause of all the Arab people and this must be handled by the Arab people themselves. The cause of the revolution, in its social, spiritual and material concepts, cannot be divorced from the cause of liberation. The forces interested in liberation are the same ones which are interested in revolution and the building of a society of socialism and unity.

Reaction and colonialism are in one rank because their interests are one, although reaction could be more dangerous than the imperialist forces it is in alliance with, since it is considered to be among us. Young people are responsible for making this line clear and denouncing imperialism and reaction.

I am not speaking to you as a ruler. Since the establishment of the people, we have no ruler other than the people, and they and no one else have the authority. My brother members of the former Revolution Command Council and I are merely a committee of the revolutionary committee born to the Jamahiriyah by its movement, and its responsibility is to stress the authority of the people and to struggle through them. The authority is that of the people. Decisions are those of the people. We have no government. Administration is popular, elected by the masses to implement their recommendations. We do not seek the sympathy of anyone. We do not make up to anyone. We are not in a weak position. Our policy is clear. Our principles are not transient. We feel sorrow and pain when we see the Arab masses have moved away from the positions of genuine struggle. For this reason it is our responsibility and our concern for the interest of our nation to draw attention to these matters. The Jamahiriyah is your country, this land is your land and our resources are at your disposal.

BAHRAIN

IRAQI, BAHRAINI MINISTERS DISCUSS COOPERATION

JN091523Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 9 February--Babakr Mahmud Rasul, Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs, met here today with Bahrain's minister of labor and social affairs, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, to discuss ways to strengthen labor and social cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries. During the meeting of the two ministers discussion centered on the role of the labor force in the Arab Gulf countries in achieving economic and social development.

Rasul invited Shaykh 'Isa to visit Iraq to observe the work of institutions specializing in labor and social work there. The Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs attended the labor ministers conference of the Arab Gulf countries, which concluded its meetings in Manama yesterday.

KUWAIT

PALESTINIAN CONFERENCE CALLS FOR IRAQI-SYRIAN UNITY

JN091520Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 9 February--The annual conference of the Palestinian popular federation in Kuwait has decided at the conclusion of the meetings it held from the 18th to the 29th of this month [as received] to form a delegation from the conference members to visit the Iraqi and Syrian embassies and urge the two fraternal countries to discard their differences and to stand in one rank against the plots and dangers currently facing the destiny of the Arab nation. They will also stress the need to support the steadfastness and confrontation front as well as the pan-Arab need for Iraq's active participation in it.

In a statement issued today, the conference announced the decision to establish a fund for the support and backing of the Palestinian people's steadfastness inside the occupied homeland, under the name of steadfastness fund.

The permanent committee of the popular federations will be entrusted with the task of drawing up the organizational and executive plan for the work and supervision of the fund. It will also submit an annual report on the fund's activities to this conference.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: AS-SADAT'S RELIANCE ON U.S. FAILED

LD092334Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 8 Feb 78 pp 1, 19 LD

[Editorial]

[Text] If President as-Sadat, following his talks with President Carter, stood up to complain of the lack of "effective" U.S. pressure on Israel, then what has happened to the 99 percent of the cards which are said to be in the hands of the United States? Does this not mean once again that this wagering has also failed? Also, does it not mean that Cairo attributed to the U.S. role qualities that it did not deserve and consequently directed the entire Arab movement in the wrong direction?

Cairo has burned its bridges with the Soviet Union because of its wagering on the United States; it went to Israel because of its wagering on the United States; and it divided the Arab rank because of its wagering on the United States. And previously it did not allow the October war to follow its real course because of its wagering on the United States. And yet this wagering has led it to complain about the lack of effectiveness.

Are all these experiences and setbacks not enough for us to realize that wagering on the United States is futile, will not restore our rights and, on the contrary, will lead to a deeper involvement with Israel?

Unfortunately Cairo does not admit its mistake despite the fact that it is clear as the Arab sun. Rather than admitting its mistake Cairo is heading to a distant and noisy war on two fronts--in the Horn of Africa in the east and Chad in the west. Just as we expected yesterday, President as-Sadat declared that he would help the Chadian Government against Libya and that, for this reason, he asked for arms from the United States; apparently this is the only effective result of his visit to Camp David.

These wars in fact aim at one thing: to keep Egypt away from the real front of the struggle against Israel as well as from the principal war of which the other wars are extensions. This is because as long as we do not liberate the land and regain Arab rights from Israel, we will always be faced with fabricated "wars" to prevent us from fighting our only real war and so that we will always be defeated should we go back to our principal war. The purpose is that we should remain in a state of constant exhaustion, whether in Chad or the Horn of Africa, as is the case these days; or in the Congo or Yemen, as was the case in the past; so that we will not be able to fight a liberation war against Israel or, should we try, once again be defeated.

As long as we are diverted to these distant wars which are fabricated so that we will be attracted to them, then there is nothing to prevent the United States from giving us weapons in order to fight a war that is not ours but basically is an American war. Therefore as long as we are so horribly susceptible to getting involved, how can we expect Israel to take any notice of us or even to give up a single settlement in the occupied territories? Or are we still expecting U.S. pressure to restore our rights and territories and save our honor and dignity?

If the United States had any intention to bring pressure on Israel, it would not have allowed it to become the pharaoh of the area. It has incessantly been providing Israel with everything "from guns to butter," as the Egyptians always said, and therefore has encouraged it to usurp the lands and rights of others. Therefore, how can we ask or expect the United States to bring pressure on Israel to give up what it usurped? Indeed how can we ask for this particularly after we destroyed Arab solidarity and negated the elements of power that could have brought pressure on the United States and the West?

The policies of Cairo have confounded Arab strength and put it in such a position that it cannot impress anybody. If you have no strength then no one will listen to you. Now the Arabs are afraid for Cairo and afraid of it. For this reason they are divided and confused. Consequently their strength as a unit has been dispersed. Why then should Israel comply?

Fear, unfortunately, is the only feeling pervading the Arab arena at present: fear from the present, fear from the future, fear for Egypt, fear from its policy and fear because of all these fears.

In any case we shall remain as we are as long as we are willing to dance to the tune that Cairo beats and favors: Sometimes it is Soviet, another time it is American and a third time only God knows what.

OMAN

FOREIGN MINISTRY REPROVES REJECTIONIST STATES

NC091936Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Muscat, 9 February--An official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry in the Sultanate of Oman has expressed his government's regret over the reference against the Sultanate of Oman which was included in the statement of the rejectionist states conference held in Algiers.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today, the spokesman said that the rejectionist states' attack on the Sultanate of Oman in Paragraph 10 of their statement, which includes their resolutions and measures, is completely unjustified because the Sultanate of Oman is an independent and sovereign state and member of the Arab League and the United Nations. The spokesman reiterated his government's regret that the rejectionist states which recently met in Algiers found it proper to involve themselves in this provocative manner in the domestic affairs of the sultanate, a matter which naturally does not serve the good relations existing between the sultanate and some of these states.

SAUDI ARABIA

RIYADH RADIO REITERATES POSITION ON PALESTINIANS

LD081742Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Slanderers and enemies of the Arabs and Islam continue their attempts to cast doubts on the attitudes of the Saudi Arabia Kingdom toward issues that concern the Arab world. Time has proved that these attitudes represent the summit of moderation and that they manifest adherence to all national, Arab and Islamic rights, permitting no one to squander or violate these rights.

The latest in the series of tendentious campaigns is the report carried by the Lebanese AS-SAFIR and circulated by news agencies.

The stand of the Saudi leaders is this: complete backing with money, weapons and even blood for the Palestinian people who were expelled by the Israeli invaders from part of their land in 1948--the year that will continue to remind us of the calamity--and afterward expelled from their remaining land in the aggression of 1967. This is the attitude of the Saudi leaders. They will not accept anything else. That land must be given back to its lawful owners. These owners must be given the complete right to exercise their lawful powers which entitle them to establish their own independent and sovereign state. This is the firm Saudi position which will never change, and the leaders of the kingdom are eager to see it fulfilled at the earliest. The realization of this position can be achieved in only two ways:

The first is that Israel must be made to submit to international pressures that should be brought to bear on it. Israel must accept a peaceful solution and should withdraw from all the occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem, on the condition that this solution must not undermine the rights of the Palestinians. Saudi Arabia advocates that these rights be returned in full.

The second is war, if Israel continues to cling to those territories. We believe that this is the more advantageous and correct way to follow if the first is not possible. Scores of years have passed and international machinery is not able to solve the issue. This has proved the impossibility of a peaceful solution because the enemy is ferocious.

Time has proved that dealing with this enemy is useless in any form except the language he well understands, namely, the language of the bullet and missile. This is the attitude of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom toward the Middle East issue. This issue chiefly affects the Palestinian people. That the Palestinian people are the victims does not absolve the Arab nation of responsibility to stand alongside them with all its potential and abilities until the banner which was lowered in 1948 may flutter once again over the highest point and the noblest place in Arab Palestine.

The malicious rumormongering against the kingdom will not be believed by anyone. History is more accurate than fabrications. We do not find such rumors and false reports strange, especially at this juncture in the history of the Arab nation, which is experiencing marginal differences. One is afraid that such differences may lead it to a course that might not serve Arab interests. The Arab nation today is in dire need of closing its ranks and discarding its differences. It should seriously and earnestly preoccupy itself with more important matters, headed by the most important Arab issue. Yes, such rumors and allegations are not at all surprising at this precise juncture, because he who tried to cast doubt and provoke division has realized that the Arab nation is not prepared to accept any fabrications; he then wanted to see superficial, marginal disputes turn into irreparable radical differences. He forgot that the Arab nation is a body of red corpuscles which work together as soon as they receive a warning of any danger to any part of the Arab organism.

Another malicious rumor is the one that was carried by the London magazine ARABIA AND THE GULF. This magazine said that clashes along the Saudi-PDRY border have recently become intensified. What clashes? And what was the basis of such clashes? The truth that must be told, now that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has officially denied the report of the British magazine and now that an official source has said that this report is wholly untrue and basically a fabrication, is that these attempts to harm Saudi Arabia, which to all the Arab states has become a mother figure who shares their pains and helps to remove the cause of these pains, will not stop because the slanderers have not despaired of infiltrating the Arab ranks once again after being expelled on previous occasions. These ranks will remain closed whether the slanderers like it or not.

UAE

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ LEAVES ABU DHABI

NC091142Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 9 February--The foreign minister of the Yemeni Arab Republic, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, left for Muscat today following a 3-day visit to the UAE. Before leaving, Al-Asnaj said his current tour of a number of Arab states is designed to lay the groundwork for convening a meeting soon between the Arab confrontation states and the states which back them, in order to pave the way for the convening of an Arab summit conference. He said that he felt that all the Arab states he has visited are eager to see Arab solidarity restored.

YEMEN--PDRY

AL-FATTAH ISMAIL RETURNS FROM 'USEFUL' ALGERIA VISIT

LD092105Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, the secretary general of the UPONF Central Committee, and the delegation accompanying him, returned home this morning after a 4-day official visit to the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

In a statement at Aden airport, brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il said: The visit we paid to the fraternal Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and our meetings with the brother leaders of the Algerian revolution, especially brother President Houari Boumediene, were useful and fruitful.

We also exchanged views on the situation in the Horn of Africa, Arab and international issues and the aggression being launched by the imperialist and Zionist forces against the Arab peoples and their will for liberation and social progress and against the struggle of the Palestinian people, led by the PLO for self-determination and the establishment of an independent national state of their territories.

While exchanging views on issues that maintain the state of tension and balk peace efforts, we were convinced of the need for concerted efforts in the Arab liberation struggle to bring to an end the Zionist occupation of the occupied Arab territories and to effect the recognition of the right of the people of Palestine to independence and to build an independent state.

Our views were also identical on the situation in the Horn of Africa. They rest on a belief in the need to solve differences by peaceful means, respecting sovereignty and mutual cooperation, which serve the coexistence, stability and social progress of the peoples of the region and safeguards their national independence from attacks by aggressive imperialism.

YEMEN--YAR

PRIME MINISTER AL-GHANI RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR

JN091858Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Command Council member and prime minister, received this morning his excellency the United States ambassador in San'a'. During the meeting discussions dealt with relations between the two countries.

AMMAN RADIO: EGYPT SUSPENDS MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS

JN0923085Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] The Egyptian Government yesterday issued a statement in which it said that the talks of the joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee will not be resumed unless the deadlock is ended in the talks of the joint Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee concerning the general outlines of the comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question.

The MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY said that 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi. [Egyptian minister of information and culture], issued a statement to this effect after the meeting held yesterday by the Egyptian cabinet to discuss the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East.

[Cairo sources monitored by FBIS have not been observed to report the Egyptian Government statement cited by Amman radio.]

GHALI, MUBARAK HOLD MEETINGS ON HORN OF AFRICA

Ghali Receives Ambassadors

NC0922129Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 February--Dr Butrus Ghali, the minister of state for foreign affairs, engaged in important diplomatic activities this evening regarding the recent developments in the Horn of Africa and Chad.

Regarding the Horn of Africa, Dr Ghali received separately the Ethiopian ambassador in Cairo, (Petrokidan Maria), and Somali Ambassador Abdulrahim Farah. The discussions at the two meetings centered on recent developments in the Horn of Africa and the dispute between Ethiopia and Somalia, especially over the Ogaden area. Dr Ghali also received Chad Ambassador in Cairo Momsala Ouangmotching. They reviewed the situation in Chad and the relations between their countries.

In a statement to MENA, the Somali ambassador in Cairo said that his country strongly deplores the Soviet and Cuban interference in the conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia. He added that Somalia is currently being subjected to an attack by Soviet planes and that this attack is being led by Soviet General (Rashinsov) who was the head of the Soviet military experts in Somalia. The Somali ambassador said that his country has managed to monitor all signals transmitted to the bases of the planes attacking Somalia and that it has been confirmed that they are Russian signals and that the attacking force is using the Russian language in its contacts.

The Somali ambassador (?refuted) the Soviet allegation that Arab forces are fighting on the side of Somalia and said the aim of this propaganda is to cover up the Soviet-Cuban interference in the conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia. He added that Somalia believes that the parties concerned should directly solve the conflict without any foreign interference [word indistinct] the OAU participating in achieving a peaceful solution to the dispute.

Mubarak Meeting

NC0920025Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a 2-hour meeting this morning at 'Abidin Palace during which the military and diplomatic situations in the Horn of Africa and Chad were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, and the chief of general intelligence.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES ARAB COMMUNITY LEADERS IN U.S.

NC091210Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0512 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Speech by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat on 8 February to representatives of Arab community in United States--recorded; in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] Thank you, gentlemen, for the very kind words which you said just now. Let me start by answering the question which our friend here has asked. Let me tell you sincerely that I came here disheartened and discouraged. I said this in my farewell speech to President Carter at the White House today. I said that I was elated when I received President Carter's invitation to visit Washington. I wanted to come to address the American people directly.

I held very long discussions with President Carter at Camp David. I really enjoyed the discussions. which lasted more than 2 days. When I arrived in Washington, I went to the Congress. Yesterday I addressed the House of Representatives International Relations Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

I can tell you that I also held talks with Secretary of State Vance. I can tell you now--as I said at the White House today--that I will return to my country much more determined to search for peace, rather than being disheartened, as was the case when I arrived here.

It is not easy to build peace. It is easier to start a war. I have really practiced the two. I started the October war and last November I started my initiative to establish peace in the Middle East--in our area.

Our future generations must not suffer what we have suffered. Why should they suffer what we suffered for more than 30 years? The difficulties I have with my colleagues in the world are much smaller than the difficulties that I see from the Israeli Government, despite the fact that through my initiative of last November, which was unprecedented in history, I tried to jump over all the many years of suffering, hatred, bitterness, bloodshed and four wars.

I want you to be sure that the opposition we have in the Arab world--from the five states that started this opposition--will never affect me. They did this after I signed the first disengagement agreement in 1975 [year as heard]. They accused me of treason and of selling out the Arab cause. They then apologized to me. The Soviet Union advised them to raise a certain slogan and this was the "separate agreement" slogan.

I remember that in Cairo I met with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko and during a conversation which lasted 4 hours I told him: Please do not give slogans to my colleagues.

When I signed the first disengagement agreement, they said that this was a separate solution. Afterward, Syria signed a disengagement agreement and this agreement became agreeable to the Arabs. When I signed the second disengagement agreement, they said the same thing. They said that I was seeking a separate solution and that I was selling out the Arab cause.

They said that I was turning my back on our Arab battle and our Arab cause. As I told you, they then apologized to me. The same thing is happening now. Even the same words are being used, (?claiming I was after) a separate solution. You probably heard my speech to the People's Assembly before I came here. I said that the Soviet Union has not changed. I described them in the correct terms that they deserve.

Had I sought a separate solution there would have been no need for me to visit Israel. President Carter was prepared to conclude a separate agreement with Israel [as heard] and they would have welcomed it without my having to go to the trouble of going to Jerusalem. Peace and war decisions are made in Cairo.

I am after a comprehensive solution. As I told you, the difficulties that my Arab colleagues are causing me are nothing at all compared with the problems I am having with the Israelis. They have not quite understood the significance and spirit of my initiative, my attempt to make one leap and to overcome the barrier of hatred and bitterness. I may have surprised them, as I did the whole world, but I can be patient. I can be patient, but I can also say that I will never give up one inch of our Arab territory. [applause] I can be patient but I will never allow any attack on our sovereignty.

These are the facts that I wanted to tell the American people here. I believe that my visit was successful. You have asked me about the results of my visit. I say that it was successful. As I told the American people today, I will always be proud of the warm sentiments expressed by the American people, including the Jewish community. I am proud of these feelings that they have shown me. As I have promised you, as I promised you before, and as I have told the American people, I will never let you down.

Our brother here [not further identified] has made a speech and submitted certain (?views) in writing. Allow me to tell you the real facts. Two years ago I asked Yasir 'Arafat to bring the Fatah organization to Cairo so that he may rid himself of the pressures put on him by Syria and the Soviet Union. After the second disengagement agreement--I have said this before--the Soviet ambassador in Beirut went to President al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat--before we signed the second disengagement agreement--and he gave them a piece of paper which he said was the agreement that would be signed with the Israelis and the Americans. He said that certain provisions would be made public and certain provisions would be kept secret and would not be announced. They started their campaigns against me, using all kinds of words, accusing me of treason, barter, and of accepting some sand in Sinai in return for giving up the Arab territories. We in the Arab world are fond of such words.

After the second disengagement agreement, it transpired that it did not contain one single article from the text that the Soviet ambassador had submitted to 'Arafat and Al-Asad, not one article or provision.

The agreement was completely different from what the Soviet ambassador had submitted. Then, regarding the secret agreements which they mentioned I say: Yes, I did sign three secret agreements which I did not intend to reveal or make public, because I felt and still feel that I am responsible for whatever I do. I do not conceal facts. When they persisted in their attitude I announced the three agreements. All of them were in favor of Syria. The first one was a commitment from the American Government that Israel will never attack Syria. The second--also in favor of Syria--was that the U.S. Government would conclude a second disengagement agreement on the Golan Heights.

The third agreement was that the Palestinians should share in any settlement in the Middle East.

I did not want to divulge these agreements. These agreements were between me and the United States, not Israel, but I was forced to reveal them.

This is the situation in the Arab area. I tell you this, and I have said it to Yasir 'Arafat: Whatever the abuse may be, he will never let the Palestinian people down at all.

I visited Jerusalem last November and I met with my Palestinian sisters and daughters there. At the Al-Aqsa Mosque I learned from them that 10,000 of their husbands, brothers, sons and friends had been in Israeli prisons for 10 years, that no one had gone there to ask about them and to see their suffering, and that those outside are trading [with the Arab cause] in Europe and all parts of the world.

My dear friends, Egypt has always assumed historic responsibilities. Egypt knows its historic responsibilities quite well and does not need anyone to tell it what its responsibilities or duties are. Egypt is aware of its responsibilities in the Arab world and the world at large. If anyone does not understand this, this is his problem, not ours.

I promise you that I will proceed with my work for peace until the end. I will request the evacuation of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and self-determination for my people in the West Bank, and self-determination for my people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [applause]

Well, we should adopt what the world adopts now. We must not use a different language from the rest of the world.

Since the October war you have been watching the outcome of this war. We Arabs are considered the sixth power in the whole world. We must not return to these side issues and to these slogans and outbiddings. We must speak the language of the world, the language that the world understands. We must also adhere to our rights and principles. I promise you that we will triumph in the end. Thank you. [applause]

AS-SADAT MAKES STOPOVER IN UK, ARRIVES IN FRG 9 FEB

For reportage on President As-Sadat's airport stopover in London and his 2-day visit to the FRG, see the United Kingdom and Federal Republic of Germany sections of the 9 February and subsequent issues of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

As-Sadat Heathrow Statement

NC091207Y Cairo Domestic Service in English 1043 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Statement to newsmen by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat before his departure from Heathrow Airport--live; in English]

[Text] Well, really I came to visit our friend Prime Minister Callaghan for two reasons. The first is that I seize this opportunity really and express my gratitude for the very warm feeling of the British public opinion toward my initiative. And really I am greatly grateful for receiving everyday letters. For that I wanted to express my gratitude to our friends here in Great Britain. The second is that I wanted to put Prime Minister Callaghan in the full picture.

After we met at Aswan, new developments have taken place. And I have visited the United States and had talks with President Carter, and the House there and Secretary Vance. And it was quite natural that I met with Prime Minister Callaghan and tell him--put him in the full picture of what has taken place there.

I have also given Prime Minister Callaghan my analysis for the whole situation. And I informed him also about the latest difficulties we had in the Political Committee, when I was really in no position except to call back my delegation. And I quite agree with him that we should do our best to keep the momentum of the peace process. And in this respect I came not only to put Prime Minister Callaghan in the full picture, but I came also to seek his help and good offices, because it is of vital importance in this crucial moment.

I am sure that I shall have it. And let us hope what I have already declared will lead to a new momentum for the peace, especially when--as Prime Minister Callaghan stated--I have recognized in Jerusalem and until this moment that there is an issue of security that the Israelis asked for. At the same time, you may have heard that I have stated in Jerusalem: Let the October war be the last war.

I did not change my position. Even much further than this, I may say that I have chosen my fate. The help of our friends is very essential and very vital at this moment. If there is any question, I am ready, thank you.

[Question] Mr President, you were quoted before you went to the United States as saying that you were very disheartened. Now [words indistinct] you said the visit was a success. What happened in the United States to make you change your mind?

[Answer] I already declared this in my farewell speech in Washington. Really I visited the United States, not only disheartened but also discouraged. I thought that my initiative had overcome all the barriers of distrust, hatred and bitterness, and even the old conceptions. Really I was disheartened when I found that these old conceptions still prevail on the other side. [Words indistinct] in Washington, we had very frank discussions with President Carter, in the House, and with Secretary Vance. As I told Prime Minister Callaghan, we have agreed that certain efforts shall be exerted by the United States to send Atherton back to the area to shuttle between Cairo and Tel Aviv, so that we can reach an agreement and bridge the gulf between us and agree upon what we have already stated before--the declaration of principles.

[Question] Mr President, how much longer will your patience last before you feel you have to recognize, like some other Arabs, that your initiative has failed?

[Answer] As I told you, I am very proud of the feeling of hundreds of millions all over Europe and America--until Australia, really. I am very happy and proud of this sentiment. One should not let all those down at all. I am not going to let them down. As I said, I have chosen my fate. But there is a limit always to everything. Let us hope that not much time will elapse until we resume the whole peace process.

[Question] Mr President, do you really believe that peace is still possible?

[Answer] Yes, I am sure. I have stated in the United States that if the right conception prevails on the other side, I assure you in a week we can reach an agreement. There is no difficulty. As Prime Minister Callaghan stated, I recognize that there is a security problem for the Israelis. They are accepted in the area. I accepted also that we should get together around the table and discuss this security problem so that they may feel secure and continue.

[Question] Is it the settlements or is self-determination for the Palestinians the main problem now?

[Answer] The main problems are these two problems--self-determination and the question of the settlements.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I sometimes felt that I was pushed toward a corner to say that I regret my visit to Jerusalem. No, I do not regret it at all. I consider it as I have considered before, and I have stated 28 hours before I visited Israel--I was in Damascus visiting President al-Asad and I told him: If this mission will be the last mission for me as president, I shall be doing it and I shall be very happy.

Well, the world public opinion and the sentiment that I have received really were something that I shall never forget. And as I told you, I shall never let [words indistinct] of all those feeling--I shall not let it down. And as I told, yes, easily we can reach an agreement.

I have put certain points for the security--and I do not think any security can, I mean, can need more than that--a demilitarized zone, a limited armament zone, early warning stations, UN forces in the demilitarized zone, UN forces in Sharm ash-Shaykh, despite the fact that I am ready to signin the treaty that the Tiran Strait is an international waterway and [words indistinct] that a combined committee between Israelis and the Egyptians convenes to look after the implementation of all agreements that we are going to reach. The committee can meet in Egypt and Israel regularly.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] As I told you, I went there disheartened and discouraged, but exactly as Prime Minister Callaghan said now, the visit proved to be a success. Atherton will be returning to the area to work toward what we are asking for.

MILITARY SPOKESMAN DENIES TROOPS SENT TO SOMALIA

LD100032Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2348 GMT 9 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 9 February--The Egyptian military spokesman today denied reports by certain world news sources that Egyptian forces have been sent to Somalia in order to help it repel Ethiopian aggression against its territory. In a statement published in tomorrow's Cairo newspapers the spokesman affirmed that these reports are absolutely untrue.

AL-AHRAM: RESUMPTION OF POLITICAL TALKS UP TO ISRAEL

NC100750Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM today notes the important dimensions of President as-Sadat's visit to a number of European capitals. The paper also notes that the important talks which took place between Presidents as-Sadat and Carter at Camp David and in Washington have dispelled many doubts about the U.S. stand on the substance of a peaceful settlement and have resulted in further clarifications and commitments on a number of issues. The israeli side has attempted in vain to turn the peace negotiations into bargaining over these issues, particularly over the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and the question of retaining the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territory after its liberation.

The paper notes that it has become clear that the resumption of political talks between Egypt and Israel depends upon Israel's unconditional acceptance of these principles, which will guarantee the achievement of just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

There is no doubt that the European countries, in addition to the United States, can play a role in inducing Israel to see the reality in the area. The British Government statement, issued a few hours before President as-Sadat's talks with Callaghan, denounces Israel's policy toward the settlements and affirms the illegality of these settlements. This statement shows a constructive stance worthy of praise. The European Community is likely to adopt a collective stand in this respect, for Israel will ultimately have to respond to reason, logic and peace.

WALDHEIM DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WITH AS-SADAT

NC091457Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Text] New York, 9 February--MENA has learned that UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has telephoned President Anwar as-Sadat and that they had a long conversation about the developments in the Middle East situation and the efforts which are being exerted to establish peace in the Middle East.

The president was scheduled to meet with the UN secretary general in New York but bad weather conditions and closure of New York airports precluded the holding of this meeting.

MUHYI AD-DIN TO ATTEND SOCIALIST CONFERENCE IN VIENNA

NC091520Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1453 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 February--Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, minister for People's Assembly Affairs and secretary general of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt, left Cairo for Vienna this afternoon for a visit to Austria at the invitation of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. During his visit to Austria, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and the delegation accompanying him are expected to attend the conference of the Socialist International which will be held in Vienna some time next week.

AL-JAMASI ATTENDS STAFF COLLEGE GRADUATION CEREMONY

NC091328Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 February--The deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, attended the graduation of a new class at the Command and Staff College in Manshiyat al-Bakri today. The ceremony was also attended by Assistant War Minister Maj Gen 'Adil Ahmad 'Ali, senior armed forces officers and graduating officers representing various branches of the armed forces. The graduating officers included eight officers from Sudan, the UAE and Iran.

Al-Jamasi addressed the graduates, explaining the dimensions of the current phase of the political efforts which are being exerted to solve the Middle East problem. He emphasized that the armed forces should always be at a level of preparedness enabling them to fulfill their national commitments.

General al-Jamasi affirmed that the armed forces will continue to improve by all possible means. He said that the armed forces will place special emphasis on improving the level of the fighting man and the training commander and provide [word indistinct] movement and heavy firepower.

Al-Jamasi also described the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa following the blatant foreign interference there and the anticipated developments.

AS-SADAT SPECIAL ENVOY HASAN AT-TUHAMI VISITS PRC

For Peking reportage on the visit of Egyptian special envoy Hasan at-Tuhami, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 2-7 February issues of People's Republic of China DAILY REPORT.

AS-SADAT ENVOY CONFIRMS DPRK PILOTS FOUGHT IN 1973

For a Pyongyang KCNA report on a 9 February press interview given by Egyptian special presidential envoy Muhammad Hasan Muhammad at-Tuhami in Pyongyang, in which he confirms the participation of North Korean "airmen" fighting on the Arab side in the 1973 Middle East war, see the North Korea section of the 10 February Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

AL-AHRAM DENOUNCES ALGIERS REJECTION FRONT STATEMENT

LD071750Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Editorial: "Lack of Reason in the Rejection Statement"]

[Text] The statement issued yesterday by those who call themselves "the rejection front" at the end of their worn-out conference in Algiers is living proof of the extent to which the rejectionists lack reason and of the national loss they have suffered.

Their rejection statement yesterday was clear evidence of the difficulties which the rejection leaders are suffering because of their international isolation and of the fact that the truth behind their outbiddings in the Arab arena has been exposed. The Arab rejectionists have placed on record their rejection of the Egyptian president's discussion of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and declared that the Egyptian political move is aimed at destroying the opportunity to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

First we must ask: Is it not Egypt which has been and still is concerned with the national rights of the Palestinians and which withdrew from the Jerusalem talks because of these rights?

We would also ask: Wasn't Egypt the only Arab state that rejected the imposition of any trusteeship on the Palestinian people and stressed the need that these people should express themselves through the PLO in its capacity as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians?

We would further ask: Didn't as-Sadat declare on every occasion that Egypt is not seeking a unilateral solution and that it will not forsake a single inch of the occupied Arab territories or the rights of the Palestinian people? As-Sadat himself declared and affirmed that Egypt wants the Cairo conference to adopt a declaration of principles that will commit Israel to total withdrawal and establish the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and that later every Arab party will discuss the details of its problem with Israel. Therefore, what is the meaning of the talk about withdrawing from Egypt the right to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians and the Golan Heights?

The Arab rejectionists, the masters of oratory and the experts on oppression, accuse Egypt of fabricating a clash with the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist states and liberation forces in the world which, according to them, will lead to frustration of the aspirations of the Arab and African people for safeguarding their national independence.

Once again we would like to ask: If this is true why do they need to plead with the Soviet Union to whom they refer in their statement and why do they call upon it to give aid to the rejection countries? Isn't this the best evidence that the Arab area is not only in a state of no peace, no war but also in a state of imbalance and instability--a climate that allows them to implement their pernicious plans. And yet they talk about Egypt's responsibility for isolating the loyal friend from Arab and African interests.

We must point out here the truth regarding the Soviet role behind the attitude of the rejectionist forces. This role is clearly reflected in the interest shown in problems and issues that are of much less importance than what is going on now in the Arab arena.

Instead of the Arab brothers taking effective action to support a sisterly Arab state--Somalia--in its struggle against all foreign intervention in Ethiopia, the Arab rejectionists came out with a vague statement about the crisis in the Horn of Africa, hinting that they intend to support Ethiopia in its conflict with Somalia. This is surprising. It is also saddening that destiny should make such people leaders of the oppressed Arab peoples.

Fortunately world interest in their conference was commensurate with their status because the world fully realizes that the key to war and peace is here in Egypt.

IRANIAN DESTROYERS ARRIVE IN PORT SAID 7 FEB

LD091504Y Teheran PARS in English 1122 GMT 9 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY), 8 Feb--Two missile-launching destroyers from the Imperial Iranian Navy entered Port Said of Egypt on Tuesday afternoon on a voyage which has already included ports in France and Italy. After spending a few days in Port Said and visiting the port facilities they will leave for the Persian Gulf.

PETROLEUM MINISTER HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE 9 FEB

NC091532Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 February--The value of Egyptian petroleum production in 1977 amounted to about 422 million pounds. Crude petroleum production amounted to 21 million tons and natural gas production amounted to about 400,000 tons. The value of petroleum exports during the year amounted to about 284.2 million pounds and imports to 70.03 million pounds. The net balance of payments for the petroleum sector amounted to about 214 million pounds.

Engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, minister of industry, petroleum and mining, stated this at a press conference today during which he spoke about the achievements of the petroleum sector last year. He said that the world petroleum companies prospecting for petroleum spent about 155 million pounds last year.

The minister said that the total investments in the petroleum sector in 1977 amounted to about 233 million pounds, including 78.04 million pounds as investments by the public sector companies, 91.4 million pounds as investments by the foreign partner in the prospecting operations, and 63 million pounds as investments in the development projects. Minister Hilal added that 35,000 workers were employed by the public sector and that their wages amounted to 40 million pounds--a 6-percent increase over 1976.

Concluding his conference, the petroleum minister said that the 1978 target is to achieve a net balance of payments of about 310 million pounds.

NEW AL-WAFD PARTY TO ASSUME MAIN OPPOSITION ROLE

LD092131Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Feb 78 p 7 LD

[Text] AL-AHRAM has learned that the New Al-Wafd Party will become the new opposition party on the grounds that it has the largest number of deputies except the majority party. The new party is represented by 24 deputies, while the Liberal Socialist Party has 4 and the Progressive National Unionist grouping has only 3.

The parliamentary group of the New Al-Wafd Party has chosen Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad as its spokesman at the People's Assembly and has decided to sit to the left of the speaker's platform in the assembly hall.

An AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that the New Al-Wafd Party is not the last party to apply for formal establishment. A fifth party is in the process of being formed. It is the "National Front Party," which so far includes 15 independent assembly members and is led by Dr Mahmud al-Qadi and Councillor Mumtaz Nassar. The fifth party has printed its program and begun distributing it and discussing it on a wide scale prior to completing all the procedures for establishment.

PALESTINIANS LURE EGYPTIAN WORKERS INTO EMIGRATION

JN061919Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 6 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 6 February--The Egyptian Embassy in Amman today sent 65 Egyptian agricultural workers back who had arrived in Amman en route to Saudi Arabia for work.

The Egyptian workers discovered immediately on arrival in the Jordanian capital that they had fallen victim to a nonexistent organization run by a number of Palestinians called "Employing Egyptian Workers Abroad." The company receives 300 Egyptian pounds from each Egyptian worker and intimates that Egyptian workers can travel to Saudi Arabia easily via Jordan.

The Egyptian Embassy conducted an investigation in this connection with Jordanian officials. During the investigation it became evident that the director of this organization is a Palestinian fugitive who carries an invalid passport and has managed to escape to Saudi Arabia. A source at the Egyptian Embassy in Amman said that this is not the first case of its kind. He explained that the embassy had intervened previously and sent many Egyptians back who fell victim to imposters and unscrupulous people.

AL-QAYSUNI SAYS EGYPTIAN ECONOMY SOUND, STRONG

LD081910Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Feb 78 p 6 LD

[By Sami Kamil]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qaysuni said that the Egyptian economy is strong and sound and that Israel's allegation that the peace initiative was taken because of the weak Egyptian economy is false. It is enough to say that the Egyptian pound is worth 20 Israeli liras.

Dr al-Qaysuni said that Egypt allocates 25 percent of its budget for defense while the United States allocates 9 percent and West Germany--at the time of its economic miracle--was allocating only 2 percent.

He said that the most important decision by the government of the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt was to increase investments to 2.5 billion pounds this year in order to raise living standards and create jobs for 350,000 citizens.

He said that the government is working to establish an authority for the development of the south in cooperation with the World Bank and the Arab Development Fund as well as with some Egyptian investors. There is great potential for oil finds in southwestern Egypt, where a company is carrying out exploration and research operations. He also said that there are 3 million feddans of arable land along the Tushki Canal. Al-Qaysuni added that 30 million pounds have been allocated for the transportation of iron ore from Al-Wahat to Hulwan.

Dr al-Qaysuni said that the Egyptian economy is facing difficulties but that our resources are abundant and natural potentials are vast and only lack exploitation.

Dr al-Qaysuni was addressing the training session which the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt holds for its secretaries in the electoral departments. The session was opened yesterday by Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the party secretary general.

Al-Qaysuni said we need 6,000 to 7,000 pounds in order to create a single job opportunity and that the productivity of the Egyptian worker is one-twentieth of that in the advanced industrial states. He also said that investments in the 5-year development plan total 16 billion pounds and provide for a growth rate of 10 to 12 percent annually.

He added: Agreement has been reached with the housing minister to double cement production in the Aswan and Turrah plants. We have also explored the possibility of building plants in Suhaj and Asyut in order to increase production. We need 7 million tons of cement annually, of which we import 3.5 million tons. While local production costs 10 to 15 pounds per ton, we import cement at 30 pounds per ton.

The deputy prime minister emphasized the need to go out of the present densely populated areas and move toward the desert in the northwest and the Red Sea coast. He said that the private sector can play an important role in this field. He said that there are some 3 million feddans of arable land near the Tushki Canal and that waters from Nasir Lake must be exploited to irrigate this land as well as to increase our fishing resources because currently we are importing 100,000 tons of fish annually.

He said that the Egyptian economy is facing the challenge of a 2.6-percent population increase, which is the highest world rate, as well as the shortage of money. He stressed the need to build new ports and to facilitate the transportation of goods in the existing ones.

ISRAELIS, SOVIETS, REJECTIONISTS CONSPIRE IN ETHIOPIA

LD092143Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Editorial: "The Conspirators in Africa"]

[Text] The Horn of Africa is likely to become the site of a hot military confrontation following the escalation of fighting between Ethiopia and Somalia, and the Red Sea is becoming a war zone and the target of ambitions for foreign domination.

Who would ever have imagined that Israel, those who call themselves the rejectionist group, and the Soviet Union would come together in the region of the Horn of Africa in order to confront an Arab state and suppress a popular revolution demanding liberation and its usurped land?

Yesterday Moshe Dayan openly admitted that Israel supplies Mengistu's Ethiopian regime with arms. At the same time, the Soviet Union established an air bridge in order to flood Ethiopia with arms and military equipment via the Red Sea and through an agreement and facilities provided by the Aden government. Even worse, Ethiopia has become a military base in which thousands of Soviet and Cuban advisers are operating. In fact, Cuban pilots have been flying Soviet MIG's that attack the Somali liberation front's forces in western Somalia.

Thus the ambitions have been exposed and the schemes have become unequivocally clear--the objective is to restore Soviet control over the destinies of Africa, to strike at the national liberation movement, and to invade Somalia so as to subject it to Soviet domination.

While the Arab area is at this moment engaged in the battle of establishing a just peace in order to achieve withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and insure the Palestinian people's rights, it is simultaneously facing a menacing danger marching on Africa in order to revive the era of foreign domination and to distract the Arab nation from its just struggle against Israel and its expansionist plans.

The countries of the area must adopt a firm and decisive attitude to face the foreign invasion, to make the Red Sea once again a region of security for the world, and to protect the peoples' national independence. Will the Arab countries face up to their responsibilities? This is the question.

FRG COMPANIES STOP WORKING ON CAIRO TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

NC031833Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The West German companies repairing Cairo's central telephone exchange have decided to suspend work on the project at the present stage. Our correspondent Ahmad Hamid reports: [begin recording] The German companies have sent three letters to Engineer Mahmud 'Abdallah, chairman of the Telcommunications Authority, notifying him that they are suspending work and canceling the contract concluded between the authority and the German consortium, which is carrying out the work, because of the delay caused because the Egyptian companies which are cooperating with the German companies are not completing their work on schedule.

A responsible source at the Telecommunications Authority has told me that the work to renew the Cairo telephone exchange is expected to be delayed beyond the scheduled completion time, which was the end of this year. Chairman of the Telecommunications Authority Engineer Mahmud 'Abdallah has met with a delegation from the German companies to discuss the difficulties hindering the work of these companies prior to overcoming these difficulties and facilitating matters in order to complete the work on time. [end recording]

GDR DEPUTY PREMIER RECEIVED BY SADDAM HUSAYN

JN091642Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1601 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 February--Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, met here this evening with GDR Deputy Premier Guenther Kleiber.

Saddam Husayn and Guenther Kleiber discussed the current situation and subjects of interest to Iraq and the GDR, as well as means of strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation in the service of struggle and liberation issues. The GDR official conveyed to Saddam Husayn the greetings of Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and Willi Stoph, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The meeting was attended by Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade; Zuhayr 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Bayragdar, Iraqi ambassador to the GDR; the delegation accompanying Kleiber and the GDR ambassador to Iraq.

Guenther Kleiber has been visiting Iraq for the past few days. He is heading his country's delegation to the meeting of the Iraqi-GDR Committee on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

Minutes Signed; Kleiber Leaves

JN100937Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 February--Joint minutes were signed here last night between Iraq and the GDR aimed at strengthening economic cooperation, increasing trade and developing scientific and technical cooperation.

The joint minutes issued on the third meeting of the permanent Iraqi-GDR Committee on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was signed by the heads of the two sides: Hasan 'Ali, Iraqi trade minister and RCC member, and Guenther Kleiber, GDR deputy premier.

The joint minutes provide for the defining of agricultural and industrial cooperation between the two countries. After the signing of the minutes the heads of the two sides expressed their countries' wish to further develop cooperation in various fields. They said that the minutes reflect the extent of seriousness in continuing joint cooperation and developing it in the future.

Kleiber and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this morning after a 1-week visit to Iraq. In a statement at the airport Kleiber expressed his satisfaction with the results of the visit, which ended with the signing of the joint minutes. Referring to his talks with Iraqi officials, particularly with RCC Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn, Kleiber said: During these talks we were aware of major agreement on our joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reactionary forces.

YOUTH OFFICIAL RECEIVES U.S.-CANADIAN ARAB STUDENTS

JN091813Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1311 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 February--Dr Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member and official in charge of the National Youth and Student Bureau, met here this morning with a delegation of the Arab Students Union of the United States and Canada.

During the meeting, Dr ar-Rafi'i reviewed the current Arab situation and the role of students and youth in opposing the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught and halting the collapse and capitulation process.

Dr ar-Rafi'i praised the role of the Arab Students Union, and its student and national activities.

The union delegation has been visiting Iraq for 2 days at the invitation of the National Youth and Students Bureau.

OIL MINISTER TALKS WITH BELGIAN TRADE UNION LEADER

JN092025Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] RCC member and Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim received in the Oil Ministry building today Mr (Josef Haus), president of the Belgian Confederation of Trade Unions, and the delegation accompanying him.

The minister explained to the Belgian guest the oil policy of Iraq and the role of the Iraqi working class in the victory of the nationalization struggle against the monopolizing companies. The minister reviewed the achievements and gains of the leadership of the party and the revolution in the service of the working class, and the progress of the ambitious development plans in Iraq.

The two sides exchanged views on the means to develop trade union activities in the industrial fields, particularly in the fields of oil industry, in the interest of the joint benefit of the two friendly peoples.

The Belgian trade union leader praised the progress and development in Iraq, especially in the fields of industry and mining.

PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER LEAVES BAGHDAD FOR ADEN

JN100857Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 February--PDRY Defense Minister 'Ali 'Antar left Baghdad this morning for Aden at the end of his 1-week visit to Iraq.

Before leaving Baghdad, 'Ali 'Antar said he held talks with RCC member and Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah to develop relations between the two fraternal countries. 'Ali 'Antar added that the talks were successful.

BA'TH PARTY DELEGATE TO ATTEND DAMASCUS MEETING

JN091550Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1412 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 February--It was announced here this evening that Mr Na'im Haddan, Ba'th Party National Command member and member of the permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference, will head the Ba'th Party delegation to the Damascus meeting of the permanent secretariat opening tomorrow.

The permanent secretariat will discuss the political situation on the Arab and international levels and will follow up the steps to implement the resolutions taken recently at its meetings in Baghdad.

KING HUSAYN GIVES INTERVIEW TO AFP

JN091350Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has stressed that Jordan has always been an advocate of a just and honorable peace. He stressed that Jordan has always been ready to play its role in achieving a just and honorable peace. In an interview with AFP, his majesty said that the question now is not one of a declaration of principles in the general sence they are talking about. These principles have already been unanimously defined and announced in UN Security Council Resolution No 242 issued on 22 November 1967. These principles were then corroborated in Security Council Resolution 338. The following is the text of the interview [read by announcer]:

[Question] If a general declaration of principles is announced by Egypt and Israel, will Jordan join in the Egyptian-Israeli talks? What are you conditions for joining these talks?

[Answer] My country's stand is clear and firm toward the aim of establishing a just and honorable peace in this part of the world. Perhaps it is suitable to define it with complete clarity now--and not for the first time--in view of the delicate stage the area is passing through and in order to avoid any misinterpretation and to remove any ambiguity. Jordan has always been an advocate of a just and honorable peace. Jordan has always been ready to play its role in establishing a just and honorable peace. At the same time Jordan believed and will always believe that a just and honorable peace is the aim of the entire Arab nation. The question now is not one of a declaration of principles have already been unanimously defined and announced in UN Security Council Resolution No 242 November 1967. These principles were then corroborated by Security Council Resolution 338.

Almost 11 years have elapsed since the Israeli aggression and occupation and Israel is evading acceptance of these principles and refusing to transform them into fact so that they will be a basis for peace. Israel is still going ahead with changing the demographic features of the occupied Palestinian Arab land and other Arab areas belonging to other Arab countries. Israel is going ahead with the creation of new facts.

Israel has annexed to what was the Israeli part of Jerusalem before the 1967 aggression the old holy part of the city and other areas around Jerusalem, constituting one-third of the occupied West Bank, in violation of the resolutions of the Security Council, the United Nations, world public opinion and international will.

For this reason it is not reasonable for Jordan to take moves to participate in the current talks concerning a just declaration of principles which were announced by the highest world body about 11 years ago. These principles have not been translated into facts to this time. Israel seems to be acting with determination to preclude translating these principles into fact, particularly after President as-Sadat's peace initiative.

What is required is a definition of the principles and a commitment to translate them into facts in accordance with a working program in order to enable Jordan and other Arab parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict to share in the establishment of a just and honorable peace. The commitment we are asking must at the minimum involve the following principles:

1. Complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 in implementation of the principle of the inadmissibility of annexing territory by force. Foremost of these territories is Arab Jerusalem, to which complete Arab sovereignty must be restored.

2. The Palestinian Arab people, wherever they are, must exercise their full right to self-determination and to determine their future, after the removal of occupation, and this must take place as soon as possible under neutral international supervision and in complete freedom.

3. The issues of the refugees and evacuees must be solved, in accordance with the UN resolutions, through a return to their homeland or compensation.

4. The security of the countries of the area and their right to live in peace must be insured. The principle of reciprocity must be adopted in defining any measures to this effect. In order to achieve such a peace all parties concerned must participate in drawing up the formula for it, beginning with the Palestinians, the ones to whom the issue belongs and who indisputably have the first right in this matter.

[Question] What must the Arab countries do if it is shown that President as-Sadat's initiative has reached a deadlock?

[Answer] Then Israel will bear the responsibility of depriving the area of peace and of all the results before the whole world. Israel will also bear the judgment of history and President as-Sadat will have served his nation and the world by facing the problem in one go and unmasking the reality of Israeli ambitions on the one hand, and the reality of Arab tendency to establish a just and honorable peace before the world on the other. The reality that will emerge in such a case is that the Arabs, in light of the results of President as-Sadat's initiative, would dissipate the atmosphere of illusions and wishes in which they lived in order to achieve peace with Israel on acceptable, honorable bases. Then the Arabs will only have to decide once and for all whether or not they deserve life as a nation. Then they will have to wake up with determination, reason and sound planning beginning with the Palestinians and with the whole nation on their side to unify and organize their ranks in order to build a developed Arab force involving all aspects of their life and in the shortest time possible, so that Israel will be reduced to its true size. Thus Israel will not be in a position to defy the Arabs and the world in this intransigent, arrogant provocative way. The Arabs must be cautious in the stage of building their force against the possibility of Israel launching further aggressions. This must be expected. Those foreign parties who have been in the habit of giving Israel unlimited support must reconsider their stands and decide where real intrinsic interests lie. The Arabs also must completely reconsider their relations with these parties in light of the possible new realities.

[Question] Many circles say that Jordanian-Syrian relations are passing through a stage of coolness or tension. Are these reports true?

[Answer] Personally I, my government and people are proud of what we and Syria have achieved under the leadership of brother President Hafiz al-Asad on the road to common building and natural integration. I have not felt any coolness or tension between Syria and Jordan which stand up in the face of dangers and defiance in the forefront of the Arab nation and in defense of its future and destiny. Our views or interpretations may sometimes differ, this is natural. However, Syria and ourselves and all our Arab brothers are the sons of the same nation, who, like their forefathers, believe in this fact and in the ability of the nation to stand unified against what they are facing in order to lead a decent life.

HUSAYN SENDS CONGRATULATIONS CABLE TO AL-ASAD

JN091953Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in which he congratulates him on his reelection as president of the Syrian Arab Republic. The following is the text of the cable:

I have received, with extreme gladness and satisfaction, the news of the decision of the fraternal Syrian Arab people to reelect you as president of the republic. This election is an affirmation of the people's appreciation for you, as a courageous leader working to achieve good and progress for your dear people, and as one who struggles to achieve the national goals of our noble Arab nation. I seize this happy opportunity to send you, in my name and in the name of the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the warmest congratulations and blessings, wishing you health and happiness, and for the fraternal Syrian people the realization of all their aspirations of might and prosperity.

PAPERS HAIL AL-ASAD'S REELECTION, TIES WITH SYRIA

JN100805Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] On the subject of fraternal relations between Jordan and Syria AD-DUSTUR writes: The fraternal relations between Jordan and sister Syria have always given the enemy insomnia. King Husayn has been eager not to let those who entertain illusions about coolness or tension in these relations enjoy their wishful thinking. He reasserted that the integration march between the twocountries is proceeding well and that Jordan believes in the destiny of the Arab nation, working with one hand to face the present and the future.

The conclusion of King Husayn's interview [with AFP] further clarifies Arab vision in this delicate stage. It remains for the Arabs to behave in the way which will affirm to the entire world that they are a nation which will not be dissuaded by danger from clinging to its right to survival and continuation of the cultural and humane role it has played on earth since the dawn of history.

Under the headline "Fraternal Syria" AR-ARA'Y writes: As King Husayn said, the Jordanian leadership, government and people are proud of what Syria, under the leadership of brother President Hafiz al-Asad, and Jordan have achieved on the road to mutual building and natural integration, and they find in the reelection of the Syrian leader as president during the coming 7 years further opportunity to strengthen the bonds of fraternity, cooperation and integration between the two fraternal countries. Syria and Jordan are standing up against the danger and defiance, in the forefront of the Arab nation and in defense of its future and its destiny.

Proceeding from the principles defined by Husayn and Al-Asad for the two countries, we cannot but rejoice with the Syrian people and feel proud of their strength. Support for fraternal Syria in confronting the expansionist Israeli aggression on our northern front helps support our own steadfastness, as Prime Minister Mudar Badran said. This is becaus we shoulder the same pan-Arab commitment in confronting the Zionist defiance.

Jordan welcomes the reelection of President al-Asad with joy. Jordan also expressed its pan-Arab feelings for the Algiers conference resolutions to support fraternal Syria. The unity of existence and destiny dictate that we go together on the road charted by the blood of the martyrs of Jordan and Syria on the hills of the Golan. The common danger dictates that we strengthen our cohesion and to stick to strength as the means to safeguard our existence and the great Arab homeland.

SENATE SPEAKER RETURNS FROM UAE, MAKES STATEMENT

JN091725Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 9 February--Bahjat at-Talhuni, speaker of the Senate and president of the Arab Parliamentary Union, and Fawzi al-'Umdah, secretary general of the union, returned to Amman today following a visit of several days to the UAE concerning the meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union to be held in Abu Dhabi.

At-Talhuni said that during this visit he met with the speaker of the UAE Federal National Assembly and informed him of the results of his consultations with the speakers of the Syrian People's Assembly, the Palestine National Council and the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies concerning the agenda of the forthcoming meeting. He also acquainted him with the letters he has received from the speakers of other Arab parliaments on this subject.

At-Talhuni added that as a result of his talks with the speaker of the federal national assembly, the assembly held a session during which the speaker announced that April has been set as the date for the next meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union in Abu Dhabi.

During this visit At-Talhuni also met with the UAE vice president, the deputy prime minister, the foreign minister, the commander of the federal armed forces, the members of the Federal National Assembly and a number of senior government officials and discussed with them various parliamentary affairs, crucial Arab issues and the fraternal relations between Jordan and the UAE.

PAPER CALLS FOR UNIFIED ACTION AFTER PEACE TALKS FAILURE

JN080959Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 8 Feb 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Arabs and the Postinitiative Stage" the newspaper AD-DUSTUR writes: In his speech at the National Press Club in Washington President as-Sadat threatened for the first time to withdraw his peace initiative unless serious talks are held shortly. Although the Egyptian President did not clarify how such talks can be held while Israel insists on keeping parts of the occupied Arab territory and objects to enabling the Palestinians to determine their future, his threat remains an indication that suggests that the collapse of the initiative, not only the cessation of the talks, is now quite foreseeable.

If Israel persists in adhering to its intransigent stand--so far there is nothing else--this means that the possibility of the collapse of the initiative will turn into inevitable collapse and consequently it will create a tense atmosphere in the area fraught with inconceivable dangers. As long as the possibilities of abortion of the Egyptian initiative are much stronger than those of salvaging it, this situation requires unified Arab preparations to confront the post initiative stage, regardless of the differences of the Arab stands--supporting, opposing or conservative--toward the initiative.

AD-DUSTUR says that the time factor now does not tolerate any delay or lag in rebuilding unified Arab ranks because all foreseeable indications suggest that the Arabs are heading toward an extremely dangerous stage now that Israel's intransigent stand has been ascertained and the U.S. stand supporting Israel has shown that we must not continue with our optimistic dreams.

CULTURE MINISTER COMMENTS ON JEWISH CULTURE

JN0221362 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Sharif Fawwas Sharaf, minister of culture and youth, today stated that Israel represents a fierce armed force which might constitute a danger to Arab culture, although such a danger stems from Israel's military and expansionist nature, not from the cultural values unique to the Jewish religion.

In an interview with AFP, Sharif Sharaf said that the cultural values of the Jewish religion have coexisted with Arab cultural values throughout history without creating any enmity. He added that culture in Third World countries must be the subject of strict planning in order to eliminate problems of adjustment which might be raised by scientific and technological progress for a large portion of the peoples of these countries. The minister of culture and youth further said that cultural development, particularly in Third World countries, must not be compulsory and directed by the political authority but must remain open to the deep aspirations of a people passing through a stage of transformation.

CONTINUED FIGHTING IN BEIRUT, SOUTHERN AREA

Voice of Lebanon Report

NC091893Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] On the military level, the quiet which prevailed in the afternoon was soon disrupted in the evening. The sound of gunfire and artillery shelling was heard in the areas of Al-Ashrafiyah, [words indistinct], 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, [word indistinct] and the area east of Furn ash-Shubbak and west of Sinn al-Fil. This intensive artillery shelling led to the fall of victims, destruction of houses and burning of cars. It has been reported that eight members of the Lebanese army have been wounded. They are: 2d Lt Michel Abu [name indistinct] and corporals [name indistinct] B'abdali, Ibrahim Badawi, Fu'ad al-'Alam, Raziq Nasrallah, Sa'ud Mu'ayti and [words indistinct]. Red Cross ambulances transported them to the military hospital.

Some inhabitants of 'Ayn ar-Rummahah were compelled to go to shelters while others continued to bravely defend the quarters against the successive attacks. [passage indistinct] Three persons were found killed behind the sports city this afternoon [words indistinct]. It has been reported that the As-Sa'iqah organization sent armed men to (Ash-Shiyah) area to support the Syrian forces.

[Words indistinct] Fierce battles took place today between Palestinian armed men and the inhabitants of the south. The Palestinian WAFA correspondent reported the presence of Israeli military concentrations along the Lebanese coastal and land borders. There have been no reports about the nature of this [word indistinct] Israeli concentration.

INA Report on Beirut

JN091016Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Feb JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 9 February--The Syrian deterrent forces today forced their way into the main center of the National Liberal Party in the Al-Ashrafiyah sector in eastern Beirut, occupied the center and arrested elements of the Phalangist Party who had been stationed there. The deterrent forces also forcibly entered two other centers of the party in Furn Ash-Shubbak and (Sudeco) and surrounded the Lebanese Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzih, eastern Beirut. First reports reveal that the Syrian forces lost 8 soldiers, while the other side lost 42. Most of those killed fell in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah sector, southeastern Beirut, where a Syrian truck was destroyed and four of its occupants killed. It was reported that the forces of the National Liberal Party took 20 of the Syrian deterrent forces prisoner.

Other sources say that the deterrent forces shelled the (Suba) barracks, 15 km north of Beirut, after some elements from the barracks attempted to attack the deterrent forces' roadblocks.

Further INA Report on Beirut

JN091544Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1352 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 9 February--The war, which rested for 15 months among the ruins of Beirut and along its axes and which acquired world fame, returned once again to the Lebanese capital. The sound of the cannons, to which the Lebanese had grown accustomed for 2 complete years, also returned to spread death in the streets of Beirut.

The random shelling also returned. Many shells fell in various parts of the capital today. The special radio stations began broadcasting calls for blood donations, while bakeries and gas stations witnessed a large increase in their business in expectation of a probable shortage in food supplies and fuel, if the military operations, which entered their third day, continued. Fighting, which began on a limited scale and for individual reasons, as was announced officially, acquired a comprehensive character and spread to all the other traditional axes. Fighting was intermittent in some areas and continuous in others, but the roles of the parties in the conflict changed. While the Palestinian resistance and the national movement observed a state of expectation, the rightist parties declared a state of maximum alert, mobilized their elements on the axes, imposed curfew in some areas, set up sandbag barricades on other axes and started shooting at elements of the deterrent forces.

Available reports on today's fighting state that battles in which all the rightist elements are participating have spread from Fayadiyah, east of Beirut, where the road leading to the presidential palace at B'abda lies. The battles also covered the dividing line between Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, going down to the commercial area, from Ash-Shubbak in addition to the Ad-Dikwanah region and Sin al-Fil.

While the battle are raging, intensive meetings continue at the presidential palace, among President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad, to deal with the deteriorating situation. Meetings at the palace have resulted in dispatching a high-level delegation to Damascus. The delegation includes Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, former President Sulayman Franjiyah and commander of the deterrent forces Lt Col Sami al-Khatib. The Ministry of Defense, around and inside which dozens of shells have fallen, witnessed a number of military meetings among senior Lebanese and Syrian officers.

It is feared that the rightist forces will open new fronts outside Beirut in the next few hours, particularly since news from the south indicates that the rightists, assisted by Zionist forces, are attempting an advance toward some of the frontline villages. At this stage, it is difficult to speculate as to the far-reaching effects of the rightist movement, but most observers indicate that the fighting currently raging may be limited and that perhaps it will end with the return of the Lebanese delegation from the Syrian capital.

However, if it continues after that, anything will be possible; namely, a great explosion and the formation of new alliances, which may reverse the present balance of power.

Cairo MENA on Beirut

NC091558Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1537 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Beirut, 9 February--Clashes were resumed in several areas of Beirut this morning. 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Ash-Shiyah exchanged rocket fire. Two rockets fell in the Al-Fakhani area in the western part of the Lebanese capital, which had been quiet since the beginning of the clashes in the eastern area. Fighting took place for the third consecutive day around the Al-Fayyadiyah area. The fighting extended to the Al-Ashrafiyah area and the headquarters of the National Liberal Party was subjected to shelling again. It was announced in Beirut today that the battles have resulted in the fall of many dead and wounded, including a Lebanese officer and four soldiers.

Informed sources in Beirut said that the reason for delaying the cease-fire is that the deterrent forces insist that the Lebanese Army officers and men who opened fire on the Arab deterrent forces on Tuesday be handed over to them. This was the incident which sparked the current clashes. It has been learned that Col Antoine Barakat, the commander of Al-Fayyadiyah area who led the isolationist army during the disturbances, is among those whom the deterrent forces demand be handed over.

Despite the quiet which has prevailed in the western area so far, the incidents of the past 3 days have partially paralyzed life in this area.

EFFORTS TO END FIGHTING, RELATIVE CALM REPORTED

Officials Meet, Visit Damascus

NC092000Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Successive meetings were held in the republican palace by President Ilyas Sarkis today with Speaker Kamil al-As'ad; Prime Minister Salim al-Huss; former President Sulayman Franjiyah; Minister of Foreign Affairs Fu'ad Butrus; Arab deterrent forces commander Lt Col Sami al-Khatib and the commanders of the Lebanese security forces.

After these meetings a delegation composed of former President Sulayman Franjiyah, Minister Butrus, and Lieutenant Colonel al-Khatib went to Damascus to hold direct talks with senior Syrian officials in order to put a final and decisive end to the clashes in Al-Fayyadiyah and adjacent areas.

The security situation improved after 1700 today. The sound of firing was heard in some quarters of the capital and in the places which were the scenes of yesterday's clashes, but these clashes have become isolated and, a while ago, they became less pronounced. Locally also, a number of political leaders have contributed to the calming down of the situation and to a return to normal. Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam spoke to President Ilyas Sarkis by telephone. Salam inquired about the latest developments and said he hoped the president--thanks to his leadership and wisdom--would surmount all difficulties.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil contacted former Prime Minister Salam for the same purpose. Al-Jumayyil explained to Salam the efforts he is exerting to deal with the situation. Salam replied that more than ever in the past, the present circumstances call for showing wisdom and exercising self-restraint as well as facing up to national responsibility.

Delegation Returns to Beirut

NC092002Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The Lebanese delegation returned to Beirut at 1950 today after holding direct discussions with senior Syrian officials in the Syrian capital aimed at putting a final and decisive end to the clashes which took place in Al-Fayyadiyah and nearby places. Immediately on its return, the delegation met with His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis.

Al-Huss on Damascus Talks

NC092033Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The meeting which was held at the presidential palace between His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis and the Lebanese Delegation which returned from Damascus ended at 2045 today. After the meeting, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss made the following statement: Contacts were held today on the highest levels concerning many views. We have learned the outcome of the discussions which took place in Damascus and which encourage us to anticipate positive results soon. This is not strange because we have become accustomed to good gestures by fraternal Syria and by President al-Asad himself, particularly under difficult conditions.

Iddih Criticizes Syrian Actions

JN09141Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Paris, 9 February--Raymond Iddih, leader of the Lebanese National Bloc Party, has stated that the responsibility for the fighting which has occurred between the Syrian and Lebanese forces falls on the Syrian regime. In a statement distributed here today, Iddih added: Thus, once again, the Syrian regime acts as if it is a regime of occupation. More than this, it has opened polling stations throughout Lebanese territory on the occasion of Hafiz al-Asad's reelection, as if Lebanon had become a Syrian province. Iddih further explained that the resumption of fighting will lead to dangerous results and to increased intervention by the Zionist enemy forces in southern Lebanon.

Beirut Radio: Relative Calm Prevails

NC100730Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Contacts are expected to be resumed today aimed at restoring tranquillity and stability to the capital, Beirut, and at ending complications arising from recent incidents. It could be noted this morning in the capital that a state of tranquillity has prevailed since last night, following contacts which took place all day yesterday at the presidential palace in which senior officials headed by President Sarkis participated, and also following the visit made to Damascus by a Lebanese official delegation. This delegation held discussions with Syrian officials which resulted in restoring relative normality.

Phalangist Radio: Calm, Talks to Continue

NC100723Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 10 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cautious calm has been prevailing in the capital, Beirut, and its suburbs since midnight last night, with only occasional bursts of gunfire. However, there were intensive sporadic gunfire and explosions in the Gallerie Sim'an area due to presence of armed men of the [Palestinian] organizations in that area.

The situation began to improve following the continuous contacts yesterday between leaders and officials in Beirut and Damascus and following telephone contacts between B'abda Palace and Al-Muhajirin Palace aimed at ending the differences before they became a subject for exploitation in the Arab and foreign spheres.

Some leaders in the Lebanese Army have said that they have adopted a stance of self-defense and have not carried out any attack on any position of the other forces since the clashes erupted. However, informed sources have said that when the characteristics of the sudden clash between the Syrian and the Lebanese forces became clear to the Syrian authorities, Damascus hastened to stress the need for stopping the clashes and for holding consultations and discussions on the causes and results of the dispute.

The leader of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, Maj Gen 'Ali Aslan, has issued orders to his forces to cease firing. Meanwhile, political and official circles expect a Syrian military delegation to arrive in Beirut today to continue the discussions. Initial estimates indicate that about 100 persons were wounded and 20 were killed in yesterday's clashes. However, most of them were innocent civilians who were victims of indiscriminate shelling. Furthermore, a number of buildings, automobiles and properties were damaged in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, At-Tahwitah and Al-Ashrafiyah.

The consultations will be resumed this morning in order to end the sudden differences between the Arab deterrenb forces and the Lebanese Army.

Baghdad on Cease-Fire

JN100848Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--The fighting which broke out 3 days ago between the forces of the Syrian regime and the Lebanese front stopped late last night. Reports received from the Lebanese capital said that the forces of the Syrian regime received orders from Damascus to cease firing. These orders were issued after Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss announced that the Syrian regime and the Lebanese authorities had held urgent contacts with an aim to stop the fighting.

Nothing has been revealed concerning the agreement reached between the two sides. The Lebanese delegation, which included former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, yesterday met with Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus in the presence of deterrent forces commander Sami al-Khatib. Upon its return to Beirut, the Lebanese delegation met with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis in the presence of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. It should be recalled that this is the second cease-fire decision issued in Beirut during the past 3 days. The first decision was issued by the two sides on Tuesday evening. Clashes had taken place Tuesday morning. But this decision collapsed on the following day.

Lebanese sources expect clashes to continue between the forces of the Syrian regime and the rightists. These sources say that such speculation is circulating following the announcement of the arrival of fresh Syrian reinforcements in Beirut. It was also reported that large numbers of pro-Syrian As-Sa'iqah forces took part in military operations in Beirut streets.

News agencies report people from Sidon as saying that the forces of the Damascus rulers were seen digging trenches near their roadblocks, close to the official buildings in the town, in expectation of the clashes spreading to the south. Military sources also expect tension to increase in southern Lebanon in view of movements of rightist forces in the area.

AL-ASAD TO VISIT MOSCOW IN SECOND HALF OF FEBRUARY

JN091316Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1305 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 9 February--In response to an invitation from CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet Government, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, will pay an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the head of a party and government delegation in the second half of February 1978.

LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION CONTINUES VISIT

Meeting With Al-Asad

NC081936Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, in reply to a question on the latest clashes between the Arab deterrent forces and elements of the Lebanese Army, said: I am in continuous contact with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, and we must not accord such incidents more attention than is warranted. We should continue tackling them in a plausible, effective manner. This is what we are doing, in complete cooperation and understanding with the legal authority in Lebanon under brother Ilyas Sarkis.

In Damascus, President al-Asad talked to a [Lebanese] Ministry of Information delegation on measures which will lead to the achievement of complete peace in Lebanon. He also addressed himself to the Lebanese on the occasion of the renewal of his election to the presidency. He said: The circumstances which the region is undergoing are difficult and complex, because this region is the target of big foreign powers and Lebanon is one link in this chain. Lebanon, the Lebanese problem, is part of the general problem in this region. However, we should do our utmost to separate the Lebanese problem from the other problems in the region. We should tackle the Lebanese problem on this basis. In my opinion, the positive achievements made in Lebanon starting some time ago and continuing up to the present, have not been an easy matter. We aspire to achieve a great deal. We aspire to have Lebanon completely return to normal--economically, educationally, politically and in other fields as well. I am optimistic about this too.

President al-Asad told the delegation: We are living with our brothers in Lebanon, sharing their pains and hopes. The Syrian people have exerted a great effort and made sacrifices for the sake of the fraternal Lebanese people. This is our duty. We Syrians will continue to carry out this duty. We will exert every effort for the Lebanese people. I hope that you will convey my regards to brother Ilyas Sarkis and to all the Lebanese citizens.

Banquet for Deputies

JN090508Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 2000 hours yesterday, People's Assembly speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi held a banquet at the Ash-Sharq Club in honor of the Lebanese deputies who came to Damascus to share the Syrian people's rejoicing during the plebiscite for the coming presidential term.

The banquet was attended by assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, certain members of the Ba'th Party national and regional commands, the deputy speaker of the People's Assembly and a number of ministers and members of the People's Assembly.

Al-Asad Receives Delegation

JN091518Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 9 February--At 1330 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the delegation of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies led by Michel Sasin, the chamber's deputy speaker. The meeting was attended by Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, speaker of the People's Assembly, and 'Adil Jamus, the assembly's deputy speaker.

The Lebanese parliamentary delegation members congratulated the president on the occasion of the announcement of the results of the popular referendum on his nomination for a second term as president. They also congratulated him on the people's unanimous trust.

The head of the delegation said: We have come as representatives of the Lebanese people to share the Syrian Arab people's support for President Hafiz al-Asad's prudent policy and thank the president for his efforts to spread reassurance in Lebanon.

Replying, President Hafiz al-Asad said: We are with fraternal Lebanon with our hearts, feelings and efforts. Lebanon will remain a subject of our care and we shall stand by its side, extending to it fraternal [words indistinct]. The president then asked the members of the Lebanese parliamentary delegation to convey his greetings to President Sarkis and the fraternal Lebanese people.

AL-ASAD, KHADDAM RECEIVE SENIOR LEBANESE LEADERS

JN091957Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] At 1515 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah, Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense Fu'ad Butrus and commander of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon Lt Col Sami al-Khatib. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and National Command member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Deputy Defense Minister Maj Gen Naji Jamil.

The situation in the Arab region and Lebanon was reviewed. The president then stressed Syria's desire for the continuation of the march of peace in Lebanon and its constant stand by the side of the fraternal country.

Received by Khaddam

JN091552Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 9 February--At 1330 today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah, Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense Fu'ad Butrus, and commander of the Arab deterrent forces Lt Col Sami al-Khatib.

Later, the meeting was joined by National Command member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Maj Gen Naji Jamil and chief of the general staff of the army and armed forces Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi.

Franjiyah, Butrus and Lieutenant Colonel al-Khatib arrived in Damascus at 1300 today.

DEFENSE MINISTER TALAS DECRIES AS-SADAT'S POLICIES

JN0912100Y Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 6 Feb 78 p 3 JN

[Article by Syrian Defense Minister and Deputy Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Gen Mustafa Talas]

[Excerpts] As-Sadat thought in a moment of unconsciousness and lack of comprehension that his going to Jerusalem would be fully appreciated by the Zionists and that they would cherish such a move. He thought that he would not sip bitter coffee with them [Bedouin token of friendship] except after a solid promise that Israel would withdraw from Sinai, the Golan and the West Bank and give the Palestinians their usurped rights. In his own mind, he thought that immediately after his arrival in Jerusalem, he would reach conciliation with Menahem Begin and solicit the assistance of Golda Meir. He thought, with imprecise concepts, that with this simple act he could liberate the occupied Arab soil and put an end to the Zionist expansionist ambitions.

As-Sadat went to the Jungle carrying his guitar, and he did not think for one single moment that the sound of the guitar lures only innocent lambs, not wild pigs. He should have gone carrying his Colt pistol because wild wolves can only understand the language of bullets.

We could have overlooked everything had we thought that the visit would lead to a solution of the Palestine issue, which is the crux of the Middle East dispute. However, wrong beginnings can only lead to wrong ends. Prime Minister of the Zionist entity Menahem Begin expressed this when he said: "Does As-Sadat think I am a small child, and that in return for a courtesy visit, I would sacrifice the future of Israel."

The visit has created great doubts as to the future of Arab solidarity. What does Israel want more than that? and what does the United States want more than that? Arab unity is more important than the liberation of Palestine and more important than the liberation of any occupied Arab areas, because Arab unity is capable of restoring things to their normal course, and when the Zionist invaders realize that we are one nation, they will pack up and leave.

Perhaps the worst result of the shameful visit is that the "faithful" president was mixed up in interpreting the word of God. He interpreted the word of God in the wrong way. He praised the Jews in a manner that is contradictory to the Koran. In this connection, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told us that when the late King Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz decided to receive him as a minister of a friendly country, Faysal said he had reviewed the Koran from the beginning to the end and could not find one single sentence praising the Jews. King Faysal did not conceal this fact from his Jewish guest. Does As-Sadat know more about the interpretation of the Koran than King Faysal?

Strategy is the art of using force to achieve a political goal, what has As-Sadat done with this principle?

1. He went to the battlefield unarmed. He decided beforehand that he would not sacrifice one single Egyptian solider on the battlefield with Israel. Do we understand from this that we maintain soliders to eat, drink and sleep, or do we prepare them to carry arms, fight, wash off the shame and liberate the land? Has our enemy taken such a step to prompt us to take a similar one?

2. The successful leader takes into consideration options which his adversary might resort to and for each option he draws up a suitable plan. What has Anwar as-Sadat done in this connection? He went to Israel with one plan only; that he wants to propose to the sultan's daughter. However, the sultan, his wife and his daughter turned him down. The only option for the unlucky would-be bridegroom was to hit his head against the Wailing Wall.

3. Israel has only been defeated when Syria and Egypt cooperated. How come Anwar as-Sadat then sacrifices Syria, and for whose interest? Has he forgotten the Syrian martyrs who watered with their blood the soil of the Golan to allow their brethren in Egypt to cross the canal? Anwar as-Sadat himself said of this: "Egypt is nationally indebted to Syria and can never forget this debt." Is this how As-Sadat repays us?

4. We are proud of our affiliation with the Arab nation. The Koran says: This nation of yours is one nation. O Anwar As-Sadat, how can the resurgence of the Arab nation be effected by a sardonic smile from Golda Meir, while your Arab kinsmen have become "ugly" in the view of your press and information men?

5. In the dialog among wills, no leader can beforehand exclude the possibility of using force, while he sees with his own eyes that the other side is armed to the teeth and that its previous crimes have a beginning but no end. Anwar As-Sadat admitted this when he saw for himself the arrogance and conceit of the Zionist enemy.

6. What causes pity is the fact that Anwar as-Sadat has turned to the United States to give him arms it gives to Israel. To this, I can reply with the popular saying "do not cry for the moon."

7. It is a successful rule for a leader to increase the number of his friends and to reduce the number of his enemies. What has As-Sadat done with this rule? He began with his Arab brothers and divided them into two groups. He then turned to foreign countries without being asked to do so by the United States.

As-Sadat is more Catholic than the Pope. He began to exercise his diplomacy by kicking the Soviet Union, the country that supports the Arab rights most in international forums and the one which armed us in the October war and set up an airlift to Damascus and Cairo to make up for the losses. Who benefits from antagonizing the Soviets? Definitely the only sides that benefit from this are Zionism and U.S. imperialism.

If the United States were prepared to put pressure on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territory, we would say that As-Sadat's behavior is justifiable. But all U.S. presidents since Eisenhower have completed in giving support to Israel. If we come we could have much to say about President Carter. What do we remember of his statements?

As soon as Carter makes a statement showing a little support for the Arab right, he follows it with a number of statements in support of Zionist falsehood. Perhaps we still remember that he is the one who said: "I would rather commit political suicide than harm Israel's security." So why do you, As-Sadat, antagonize our Soviet friends? What does the Arab nation get from this?

There are certain Arab brothers, of whom As-Sadat is in the forefront, who enterain dreams and see mirages. One mirage is U.S. pressure on Israel. We tell these deceived people that if the United States wanted to put pressure on Israel, it would have done so long ago. But it does not want to and will not put pressure on Israel.

How do we expect the United States to put pressure on Israel while we are putting pressure on one another and opposing each other. I ask all sincere people in the Arab nation: Who is the man whose acrobatic policies and initiative have caused divisions in the Arab ranks. Let us tell As-Sadat to go to hell in order to restore Arab solidarity, stronger than ever.

The United States and Zionism and their tool Anwar as-Sadat want to subjugate the Arab area from the ocean to the gulf and to expel the Soviets from the area in order to pilfer the oil wealth through U.S. and Zionist monopolies. Thus the thick baton will be held by Israel, and As-Sadat will have a cane to beat his African brothers. As-Sadat does not care about Israel's remaining in Sinai since he and Begin would be allies, and the mastermind is Jimmy Carter.

In the October war we fought the Jews and debunked the myth of invincible Zionists. Also in the days to come and in the coming generation the number of Arab engineers and university graduates will outweigh the number of all those of Jewish religion in the whole world, and not just in occupied Palestine. Thus in the face of this weak groveling stand which Anwar as-Sadat adopts toward imperialism and Zionism, we can only adopt a stand of steadfastness and confrontation. We must raise the banner of the great Arab revolution that will engulf all wizards, soothsayers, defeatists, charlatans and groveling people. Perhaps this is a more difficult road, but it is the only road that will lead the Arab nation to the liberation of their occupied land, the establishment of pan-Arab unity and the safeguarding of national resources.

PEACE PARTISANS DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ATHENS

JN090905Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 9 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 9 February--The delegation of the National Council of the peace partisans movement, headed by council chairman George Saddiqni left this morning for Athens to attend the international conference for peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean basin which will open this evening.

The delegation includes 'Abd al-Ghani Qannut and Murad al-Quwatli, who are members of the executive bureau, and 'Atiyyah al-Jawdah and Majid Burayjawi.

The new developments after the recent Egyptian regime's steps will head the topics on the conference agenda because of their grave repercussions on the issue of security and peace in the area and the entire world.

One concern of the conference will be the expansion of the international campaign for supporting the Arab front of steadfastness and confrontation, of which Syria and the PLO are the core. The conference will also stress the condemnation of separate solutions and will intensify the struggle for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE GREETS AL-QADHDHAFI, NUMAYRI ON RESUMING TIES

LD101302Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] President Houari Boumediene sent the following telegram to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, general secretary of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and to President Numayri of Sudan on the occasion of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries:

"We have learned with deep satisfaction and happiness of the report of the normalization of the fraternal relations between Libya and the Democratic Republic of Sudan. We are confident that the step will further strengthen the ancient ties and firm bonds which link your two peoples and contribute to the realization of the interests [words indistinct] the aims of the Arab nation and African peoples.

"This step has come at a time when our questions of destiny in the Arab homeland and Africa are going through a phase which requires [word indistinct] and strengthening of solidarity, redoubled efforts and a common stand in the joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism, colonialism and the racist regimes. In blessing this step for the resumption of normal fraternal relations between you two sister countries, we wish you lasting happiness and health [words indistinct].

Abdelaziz Bouteflika, foreign minister, also sent a similar telegram of congratulations to his Libyan and Sudanese counterparts.

BOUTEFLIKA RECEIVES VISITING ANGOLAN COUNTERPART

LD101314Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika this morning received Paulo Teixeira Jorge, foreign minister of the People's Republic of Angola. During the meeting which was attended by Belkacem Ben Yahia, Algerian ambassador to Angola, the two sides reviewed the relations of cooperation between the two countries and their strengthening and discussed the current situation in the Middle East.

On arrival at the airport the Angolan minster made a statement in which he denounced the imperialist role played by the French Government in Africa, describing it as one of a gendarme He added in particular: We cannot but feel concerned after France's intervention in Shaba and recently against the Saharan people.

To a question about the so-called European-African solidarity agreement which was proposed by French President Giscard d'Estaing the Angolan minister reaffirmed his country's stand on this question, stressing that it was an attempt by the French Government to put the Francophone countries once again in a single group so as to make its maneuvers against progressive African countries more effective. He added that the proposed agreement endangered the liberation of the African Continent.

Regarding the plots and invasion attempts against Angola from South Africa and Zaire, the Angolan minister emphasized his country's readiness to frustrate any plot or invasion attempt just as it did in the past when mercenaries tried an invasion from Zaire and South Africa.

PDRY'S 'ABD AL-FATTAH ISMA'IL ENDS VISIT

LD090009Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the PDRY's Unified Political Organization-National Front, left Algeria this evening at the end of his several-day official visit, during which he became acquainted with Algeria's various economic sectors.

Before his departure he held a press conference at the People's Palace in Algiers in which he discussed several Arab and international issues and the results of his visit to Algeria.

As for events in the Horn of Africa, 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il exposed the role of an agent being played by Iran in the service of imperialist interests, those of the United States in particular, and explained that the more U.S. imperialist designs close their grip on the region, the more the shah of Iran is pushed into the spearhead position. However, 'Abd al-Fattah Isam'il said that as progressive Arab forces in the confrontation front we are called upon to confront challenges in the Arab east and the Maghreb so that our solidarity and struggle is coordinated and unified.

MOROCCO

PAPER REPORTS ON AS-SADAT'S VISIT WITH HASSAN

LD091523Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 4 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[MAP report]

[Excerpts] At the end of a 24-hour visit to Morocco the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr Anwar as-Sadat, left Rabat-Sale Airport at 1300 on Friday for the United States.

On Friday morning the king had a meeting with the Egyptian president lasting over 1 hour. At the end of this audience, King Hassan II declared:

"We believe that eloquence is the greatest enemy of eloquence, especially when it is intended to explain and analyze feelings such as those which bind Morocco and Egypt and ourselves and our brother, His Excellency President as-Sadat.

"The best expression of our feelings and our friendship toward President as-Sadat and the Egyptian people is this warm accolade which we are giving."

For his part, President as-Sadat said:

"I can add nothing to what my friend and brother King Hassan II has said. I have neither his eloquence nor his courage. I pray God to keep him, for the sake of his people and the Arab nation, bold, unshakable and fully aware as he has always been, so that the world will be able to recognize the Arabs' value."

As-Sadat Sends Message to Hassan

LD091525Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 5 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[MAP report]

[Text] Rabat, February--Egyptian President Mohamed Anwar as-Sadat has sent the following message to His Majestey King Hassan II:

On leaving a country, which I regard as my second homeland after my successful visit, I have great pleasure in expressing, on behalf of myself and the delegation which has accompanied me, gratitude and thanks for the concern and hospitality which Your Majesty and the Moroccan officials have shown us.

It also gives me pleasure to tell Your Majesty how satisfied we have been with this fraternal meeting and the fruitful talks we have had in which we exchanged views on how to achieve security and stability in our region, which is a vital issue for the Arab nation.

The Egyptian people join with me in telling Your Majesty and your people, whom we regard as brothers, how much we value your positive contribution to strengthening Arab solidarity and your support for the march toward peace.

I pray that God will help us in our action to insure that our people advance along the path of freedom, glory and stability.

I send you my best wishes and hope that Your Majesty will enjoy increasing health and happiness and that the Moroccan people will continue to prosper under the enlightened guidance of Your Majesty.

ZAIRE PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT, LEAVES FOR ABIDJAN

LD091336Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] President Mobutu Sese Sekou of Zaire left Rabat-Sale Airport this morning for Abidjan after a 24-hour stay in Rabat.

Before boarding the plane, the Zaire president made a statement in which he pointed out that his talks with His Majesty King Hassan II had been held in two sessions; the first just after his arrival in Morocco; and the second, on the occasion of the banquet given by the king in his honor.

He said that he made with his majesty the king a comprehensive review of Moroccan-Zairian bilateral relations and of problems of the hour, such as the so-called "problem" of the Moroccan Sahara; the East African treaty; and the situation in southern Africa.

General Mobutu Sese Sekou was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Ahmed Osman; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta; and adviser to the king Abdelhedi Boutaleb.

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD092122Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah arrived in Rabat this evening from Paris for a private visit to Morocco.

Our correspondet Muhammad Siba'i met the Mauritanian president at the airport VIP lounge and had the following interview with him:

[begin recording]

[Question] Could you tell us the purpose of your visit?

[Answer] As you know, this visit is a fraternal and cordial one. It falls within the framework of the visits we make yearly for talks with his majesty on bilateral relations, Arab and African problems, and other issues of the hour.

[Question] Your Excellency. You have visited a large number of EEC countries. We have learned that fraternal Mauritania has asked for help from these countries. What kind of help was this?

[Answer] True, I visited the EEC [words indistinct] I raised with the officials there some matters pertaining to the financing of economic projects in our country. I also discussed with them help in dealing with the current drought in Mauritania. The European officials concerned replied positively in regard to all these issues.

[Question] The press has spoken much about the help fraternal Mauritania can obtain to face aggressions against [words indistinct].

[Answer] In fact these are defense issues. We did not talk about them particularly with the EEC officials. [end recording]

The Mauritanian president was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Ahmed Osman, Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta, and the king's adviser, Ahmed Ben Soudah.

SOVIET FISHING MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD081244Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Feb 78 LD

[Text] At the invitation of Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdelkamel Raghaye, Mr Ishkov, Soviet minister of the fish industry, arrived this morning in Morocco for a visit during which he will have a number of contacts with Moroccan officials concerning fishing.

At the airport the Soviet minister of the fish industry made a statement in which he underlined the vast possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in the field of sea fishing. He pointed out Morocco's potentials in the field of fishing and recalled that the Soviet Union occupies an important position in the fish industry.

The Soviet minister lauded Moroccan-Soviet cooperation and said that such cooperation could cover all fields and sectors; all the more so, since all the conditions exist for promoting this cooperation.

The Soviet minister was welcomed at the airport by Mr Abdelkamel Raghaye, minister of commerce and industry; Mr Zinelabidine Alaoui, director of economic affairs in the State Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Mr Abdelaziz Barghithi, director of the national bureau for sea fishing; the Soviet ambassador to Rabat; and a number of officials.

The Soviet minister of the fish industry is accompanied by [name indistinct], director of protocol.

SUDAN

KHARTOUM ANNOUNCES RESUMPTION OF TIES WITH LIBYA

NC082053Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2036 GMT 8 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 8 February--Sudan and Libya have agreed to reopen their respective embassies in Tripoli and Khartoum and to adopt the necessary administrative measures as soon as possible.

The two countries have also agreed to resume flights of the Libyan airlines and the Sudanese airlines between the two countries.

This came in a joint statement issued tonight following the return of Sudanese First Vice President Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim to Khartoum this evening after a visit to Libya which started the day before yesterday.

OFFICIAL SOURCE DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA

LD0920147 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has issued a statement concerning Ethiopian radio reports on the results of the Freetown agreement to the effect that Sudan has committed itself to the recommendations agreed on by the mediation committee in Freetown, has taken several steps in this direction and is still in touch with Ethiopia to (?work out the details) of the recommendation.

The source explained that the committee's recommendations specifically referred to certain measures connected with the restoration of normal relations between the two countries, as well as (?political) conflicts that affected relations between the two countries and threatened peace and stability in the area [words indistinct] and condemnation of foreign interference in the affairs and disputes of African states.

He affirmed that the Sudan hoped that Ethiopia, for its part, would strive to implement these recommendations instead of (?directing accusations) and [words indistinct] that did not serve future relations between the two countries.

The source added that Sudan is bearing the burden of more than 250,000 refugees from Eritrea and Ethiopia who have taken refuge in Sudan because of the harsh conditions under which they lived in their own country as a result of the armed conflict going on [words indistinct] and that Sudan, despite its economic circumstances, provides the Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees [words indistinct] and the necessary assistance to face the burdens of life [words indistinct].

The source explained that Sudan believes in the necessity of solving the Eritrean problem and at the same time [word indistinct] the grave consequences that can result from disregarding it or from attempting to solve it by force.

The leader-president has often stressed his readiness to mediate between the Eritreans and Ethiopians to solve the problem by political and peaceful means. This has arisen out of Sudan's [word indistinct] experience in achieving unity and in keeping with the recommendations of the OAU mediation committee.

Concluding his statement, the source reaffirmed Sudan's firm stance on foreign interference, particularly Soviet and Cuban interference, in the Horn of Africa.[word indistinct] the resolution of the last African summit conference [words indistinct] concerning foreign interference [words indistinct] because it (?jeopardizes) the security, stability and [word indistinct] of African states.

DEFENSE MINISTRY UNAWARE OF MILITARY TALKS SUSPENSION

Cairo Delegation To Stay

TA100811Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Yona Shimshi]

[Excerpt] Israel's limited military delegation will remain in Cairo, and its possible recall has not been considered by the Defense Ministry--so we were told by an authoritative source yesterday.

No announcement has reached the Defense Ministry from Egypt alluding to the need to halt the contacts between the two countries conducted through the delegation in Cairo. The opinion in the Defense Ministry is that, as long as the Egyptians do not clearly ask Israel to recall it, the military delegation in Cairo should remain there in order to maintain this vital channel of communications.

Yesterday, sources in the Defense Ministry mentioned the declarations made by authoritative Egyptian spokesmen in the past to the effect that the Military Committee deliberations should not be linked to the work of the Political Committee. Furthermore, the Americans are now making efforts to have the Political Committee deliberations resumed. It is for this purpose that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, who met with Foreign Minister Dayan in New York yesterday, is going to leave for the Middle East.

Weizman: No Announcement Received

TA091502Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Feb 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said this morning that he had not yet received any official announcement about the cessation of the military talks with Egypt and only read about this in the morning papers and heard it on the radio. Mr Weizman added that he would react when he got the official announcement. "One should stay patient and cool," the minister said.

It was reported in Jerusalem this morning that the Egyptian announcement was received with great wonder since this is contrary to As-Sadat's declaration upon leaving Cairo for the United States, a declaration to the effect that the Military Committee is continuing its activity.

It is considered possible in Jerusalem that the Egyptians will now renew the political talks, while the military talks will be resumed only afterward. This may be because Egypt wants an increased U.S. involvement in the military issues, as well as in the political issues.

IDF Radio Report

TA091624Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 9 Feb 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] No official announcement has yet reached the Defense Ministry from Egypt about the suspension of the Military Committee talks. No steps will be decided on by the Defense Ministry as long as such an announcement is not received, our military correspondent Yosi 'Abadi reports:

Yesterday, as may be recalled, the Egyptian Government issued a statement about the cessation of the military talks in Cairo until progress is made in the political negotiations. Up to this very moment, however, no official announcement has reached Israel regarding the future of the talks. Such an announcement has not reached the Israeli team in Cairo either. As long as such an announcement does not arrive, Israel's next steps will not be decided. It will also not be decided whether the team in Cairo, headed by Col Eli'ezer Rimon, will return to Israel.

The decisions on the matter will surely be delayed until Prime Minister Begin's return to Israel. It is conceivable that the Egyptians would indeed stop the military talks at a certain stage until political progress is accomplished. Throughout the stages of the negotiations, the Egyptians have reiterated the need to solve the Palestinian problems first, before solving the military problems and implementing the military agreements. Therefore, the present Egyptian move could have been expected.

LAST FOUR ISRAELI NEWSMEN RETURN FROM CAIRO

TA100645Y Jerusalem POST in English 10 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport--The last four Israeli journalists who had stayed over in Cairo after the second session of the Military Committee talks there ended nine days ago flew back home from Egypt last night.

They were seen off at Cairo airport by Aluf Mishne Eliezer Rimon, who heads the Israeli technical team at At-Tahirah Palace which is maintaining day-to-day contact between the defence ministries of the two countries.

The Egyptian authorities let the Israeli journalists say their farewells to Rimon in the VIP lounge at the airport and then whisked them through passport control, showing them the utmost courtesy until they boarded their plane.

DAYAN SATISFIED WITH TALKS WITH ATHERTON, TO MEET VANCE

TA092024Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 9 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Dayan has expressed great satisfaction with his talk with Alfred Atherton, the U.S. assistant secretary of state. They conferred this evening in a New York hotel, and Atherton reported to Dayan on the results of the talks between Carter and As-Sadat. Dayan told correspondents later that the settlement issue had not been raised during the meeting with Atherton.

The assistant secretary of state will return to the Middle East in about 10 days and then the political negotiations between Israel and Egypt will be resumed.

It was officially announced in Washington this evening that Moshe Dayan will meet with his U.S. counterpart, Cyrus Vance, next Thursday. The White House spokesman said that no meeting has been fixed between Dayan and President Carter.

Dayan Statement

TA091828Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The meeting between Moshe Dayan and Alfred Atherton in New York ended about 5 minutes ago. Dan Shilon met Foreign Minister Dayan immediately after the meeting:

[Dayan--live or recorded] We are looking forward to Mr Atherton's return to the Middle East around 20 February. We will continue the negotiations which we have begun. We hope to reach an agreement on the subject of the declaration of principles, which is the first subject on the Political Committee agenda. In my opinion, there are chances to reach an agreement on this issue.

The talks were halted according to President as-Sadat's decision. I am happy that, as a result of President as-Sadat's visit in Washington, it was agreed between Egypt and the United States to maintain the process of the negotiations. The negotiations will be resumed around 20 February, as already mentioned.

[Question] Could you learn from Mr Atherton the reason for the (?statement) that As-Sadat made at the end of the tour?

[Answer] No, we talked about the continuation of the talks. All the subjects that were discussed between President as-Sadat and President Carter are not a matter with which I should publicly deal on the radio and television. Thank you very much.

ISRAEL REACTS TO U.S. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

TA091636Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 9 Feb 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Our political correspondent [Yosi La or] says that Israel has transmitted to the United States its reservations on the State Department report on human rights in Israel and in the territories. Nevertheless, the U S. report is defined in the capital as being mainly positive. It is also remarked in the capital that the news agencies emphasized the criticism leveled at Israel, while the report itself demonstrates caution in its statements and balance in its phraseology.

JERUSALEM: NO CREDIBILITY CRISIS WITH U.S. ON SETTLEMENTS

TA100814Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 10 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By HAZOFE political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] There is no credibility crisis between Prime Minister Begin and President Carter because of the settlements. This is remarked by political circles in Jerusalem.

It may be that there has been a misunderstanding on the matter. In the talk held between Mr Begin and Mr Carter on 29 July, the prime minister did not mention a thing on this matter.

In their second meeting in December, it was stated that the settlements would be in the framework of military camps. It is possible that President Carter did not understand the meaning of this.

POST on Continued Friction

LD100538Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Jerusalem POST believes that the prime minister was mistaken in thinking that he had removed a bone of contention from American-Israel relations when he obtained American approval for his proposal of self-rule for the West Bank.

The paper points out that the Americans still believe settlements in the territories are illegal, and President as-Sadat has been able to obtain support in the United States by harping on the settlement theme. In the paper's view, Israel did not help matters by the parade of bulldozers in Rafah and the pseudoarchaeological farce in Shilo. It is not surprising, the POST adds, that this has also helped As-Sadat in his bid for American arms. There must be some lesson in this for Israel, the paper concludes, as the next round of peace talks approaches.

MORNING PAPERS COMMENT ON AFTERMATH OF AS-SADAT TRIP

TA100641Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Feb 78 TA

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] HA'AREZ says it is now emerging that, because of the extreme differences of opinion between Cairo and Jerusalem, the United States is returning to the center of the political stage in our area. Both sides will now have to listen carefully to the voice of Washington if they wish to avoid another worsening in the contrasting approaches between them. We want to continue to believe that President as-Sadat is not interested in such a worsening. Israel certainly does not have an interest in such a thing. The job of mediation being done by the United States, then, is not lacking in opportunities, as long as it is done sincerely, without hypocrisy, and in the clear awareness that balance cannot be maintained by giving Egypt preference over Israel.

In the Jerusalem POST's opinion, the settlements matter is Israel's Achilles heel in the United States. By focusing on this matter, President as-Sadat has succeeded in gaining sympathy for Egypt, even among congressional circles normally sympathetic to Israel, and in weakening criticism, even in the Jewish community. He appeared as a moderate and balanced statesman, and demonstrated an awareness of Israel's security needs. It is not surprising that this also helped the Egyptian president in his attempts to gain U.S. support with regard to arms supplies to Egypt. These developments should serve as a certain moral for Israel.

'OMER thinks that there are worrying signs that we are rapidly approaching a crisis, even crises in relations with the United States.

DAVAR writes that one of the immediate results of the visit by the Egyptian president to the United States is new tension in Washington-Jerusalem relations. At the center of the differences of opinion stands the settlements affair and the nature of the explanations given by Prime Minister Menahem Begin to President Carter on this question when he visited the United States in December. In the paper's view, the cabinet since then has behaved irresponsibly and with a lack of political wisdom in its decisions on increasing the settlements, in both Sinai and in Judaea and Samaria, in different guises. The citizens of Israel were not the only ones who felt cheated when faced by archeological settlements or acts of fleshing out. As-Sadat also felt this and, apparently, so does Carter now.

'AL HAMISHMAR says that Israel's policy chiefs are deluding themselves if they think that their problems are in the sphere of publicity. No publicity, however successful, can explain terrible policy. The current Israeli policy is terrible and unconvincing. It is not the publicity line which is at fault; it is the official line which needs a basic change.

WEIZMAN SUMMONS RAMALLAH MAYOR TO DISCUSS INCIDENTS

TA091933Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman smmoned Ramallah Mayor,Karim Khalaf to his office in order to call his attention to the gravity of the incidents taking place in Ramallah: the murders of three moderates and an attempt to assassinate another resident. This morning Karim Khalaf was ordered not to leave his office. Later, a special car was put at his disposal and he arrived at Mr Weizman's office in it. He is still at the defense minister's office.

DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE IN NABULUS, JANIN

TA091954Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Feb 78 TA

[Text] There were disturbances in Nabulus and Janin again today in protest against the settlements, and studies were disrupted. In Nabulus there was a small demonstration on one of the main streets and students set fires in the middle of the street. Nearby merchants drove the demonstrators away and put out the fires. Large border guard forces were stationed near the schools in Nabulus to prevent the students from going out into the streets.

PERES HITS GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF NEGOTIATIONS

TA100711Y Jerusalem POST in English 10 Feb 78 p 14 TA

[Mark Segal interview with Labor Party chairman Shim'on Peres, date and place not given]

[Text] Labour Party chairman Shim'on Peres cautions the public against being over-optimistic and assuming that a peace settlement with Egypt is already at hand. Indeed, even if a separate peace with Cairo were possible, the Egyptian leaders would still be burdened with the problem of Judaea and Samaria, and the Syrians would continue to lurk in the wings.

Peres sees President as-Sadat having turned the usual scenario back to front, providing the world with "the happy end" at the beginning. And now the film is about to unravel.

The leader of the main opposition party is highly critical of the way the government has handled the situation since As-Sadat's visit. "What we see now," he says, "are negotiations where all the concessions are made in public and before the talks get under way--and the toughness comes behind closed doors after the meeting begins."

Somehow the movement does not seem to fit the music, and basic issues have not yet been dealt with. As Peres sees it, the main dilemma of the Begin government is how to conduct the negotiations so as not to impair the Likud platform.

The Labour Party leader believes the Likud's ideological programme has been rendered bankrupt. Herut tried to retain both territories and bring peace, he noted. "I am glad at least it was Menahem Begin who dealt the death blow." The prime minister, Peres points out, no longer talks of "historical affinities" regarding Judaea and Samaria, and has dropped the call to extend Israel law to the territories, instead speaking of a policy review in five years' time.

The government has been overhasty in the Sinai negotiations because it wished to dodge tackling the fate of Judaea and Samaria, Peres continues, declaring inadequate Begin's verbal formula. Labour fears that Begin's readiness to extend citizenship rights to the Arabs could lead to a bi-national state, which would erode the Jewish and democratic character of this country. For its part, the main opposition party still chooses the Jordanian solution.

He blames Begin for fostering illusions on his return from Ismailia (when he said, "I am a happy man"), and then shortly afterwards declaring that if the Egyptian press attacks against him continued, the Israel delegation to the military talks would not leave for Cairo. "He was almost inviting such attacks," Peres observes.

While appreciating the premier's "semantic sensibility," Peres sometimes cannot understand what Begin is getting at--for instance, when he uses the term "Palestine Arabs." "How do you differentiate between Israeli Arabs and Palestinian Arabs?" asks the Labour leader. Words play a part in negotiations, but more often they provide the garb rather than the body, and in themselves they do not create a situation."

Peres also attacks contradictions in the government's handling of the talks, wondering why there has been no attempt to enlighten the public on the reason for sending bulldozers "to scrape the soil" in northern Sinai just as the talks began. Applying the terms "unmethodical and capricious," he fails to grasp why government spokesmen hinted there was a readiness to evacuate the Rafah approaches when they bade farewell to Israel's military delegation. "The government's declarations tend to resemble an unregulated hot and cold water tap system turned on at full volume," he declares.

Turning to the negotiations over Sinai, the former defence minister says he is not against evacuating the military airfields, but on condition that there is an over-all peace with all Israel's neighbours. "Even if we accept As-Sadat's offer to rely on him for our security, he cannot guarantee us anything on behalf of either Syria or Iraq," he says, noting that the two rejectionist countries possess more air power than Britian and France combined. Indeed, the Syrian Air Force is bigger than Egypt's.

Peres believes that agreement exists between Israel and Egypt on 98 percent of the issues pertaining to Sinai, and thus he sees no great difficulty in tackling the remaining 2 percent.

Going out of his way to correct the words of Foreign Minister Dayan regarding the Labour government's readiness in 1967 to withdraw to the international border, Peres reminds us that the exact phrasing was: "A peace treaty will be drafted on the basis of the international border, with complete demilitarization of Sinai, and a special arrangement for Sharm ash-Shaykh."

He sees the opposition's task as not only to oppose government policy but mainly to educate the young to see politics as a decent and serious activity. As for negotiations, Labour does not intend to create obstacles for the government. "One does not have to be in government to be for peace," he says. Labour will keep a clear head, back all efforts for peace and stand firm on the country's vital security interests, he said.

Talk of a land swap between Egypt and Israel over the Rafah approaches would be relevant, he observes, if it came from Cairo.

He opposes Aharon Yariv's suggestion that the Sinai settlements could be removed as a last resort. "Yariv is being as hasty and unrealistic in this case as he was when he suggested that we talk even with the PLO," he says. "When negotiating one should never a priori abandon one's positions. One should never forget that we are discussing the future of our country.

"All negotiations should remember not only how they are to keep the talks going, but what will happen after they are over. When you are seeking to prod an entire country into a new situation, you must always keep in mind the kind of new situation you wish to create."

Spelling out his party's case against the Likud government's performance on the domestic front, Peres recalls that in his election-eve TV confrontation with Begin, the Likud leader had promised to limit the number of government ministries to 12 (plus a 13th department for foreign information). Then Begin assured the electorate that there would be stable prices, in addition to a national covenant between government, the Histadrut and employers.

Instead, there has been "an alltime high in inflation, while Begin expanded his government to 19 ministries." For Peres the basic question is "what kind of an economy do we want? Capital serving Zionism or an economy where Zionism serves capital?"

He accuses the Likud government of having become "the government of the central region, certainly not of the south nor of the north." He produces a simple equation: "Labour's success story can be seen in Degania, Nahalal and Beersheba; the Likud's tale focuses on the rise and fall of stocks ans shares."

Going into considerable detail to illustrate the Likud's economic failure, especially on the export front, he comes up with the surprising charge that by submitting to civil aviation staff wage demands, the Likud showed its preference for the services rather than the production sector.

Peres also accuses the Likud of having gone back on its promises to cut down government bureaucracy. Finally, he wonders what happened to the premier's promise to bring all the yordim back, adding icily: "I was interested to hear Absorption Minister David Levi promising tax-free refrigerators to returning yordim with the same kind of pathos that Herzl used when talking of his vision of a Jewish state."

The Labour Party leader changes his tone radically when asked whether there would be the people to do the job if by some fluke of fortune his party were called to take power. "Most decidedly," he declares in his most optimistic tone. "We have a good team and we have reserves to back them up."

Indeed, he is full of hope about his party's prospects, assuring me that Labour has emerged from its post-election state of shock. Three of the seven months since the party's fall from power had been filled by the As-Sadat visit and its repercussions; but now that the public is quietening down, Labour is beginning to fulfil its new role as the opposition party that offers an alternative to the Likud.

Peres can take much credit for having kept his party intact as a going political concern. His talent as a survivor has enabled him to guide the losing party out of the trough of despondency and to prepare it for the up hill job of climbing back into power.

BEGIN SAYS HE WOULD ACCEPT AS-SADAT INVITATION

TA1011134Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Feb 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Edwin Eytan, special emmisary in Geneva]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said in an exclusive interview to YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Geneva yesterday that he is ready to accept President as-Sadat's invitation, should it be forthcoming, and meet him in Jerusalem, Cairo or any neutral place but he, on his part, will not initiate such a meeting.

The prime minister also said he was certain that the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee talks would be resumed in the near future. It was up to the Egyptians, however, to propose a date for their resumption, he said.

Asked to react to Egypt's announcement yesterday according to which the resumption of the military talks would depend on the progress of the political talks, Mr Begin said: "I don't know what the Egyptians mean when they talk about progress. They should clarify this. I can only say I am convinced that the talks will be resumed in the near future." Circles associated with the prime minister hinted it was transpiring from reports received yesterday on the Carter-As-Sadat talks that the Americans are favoring a resumption of the talks at an early date.

The prime minister was speaking last night to 1,500 Swiss Jews at a Geneva synagogue. He stressed that, contrary to Egyptian allegations, there was no discrepancy between Israel's position regarding Jewish settlements in Sinai as it had been presented to the Egyptians and the Americans. The government legal adviser, Prof Aharon Baraq, brought with him to Washington the minutes of the Begin-As-Sadat talks in Ismailia, and the study of them "convinced the U.S. leaders that there was no discrepancy between the version presented to the Egyptians and that presented to the Americans." Mr Begin reiterated and stressed that when the Israeli peace plan had been presented to President Carter--including the part that pertained to the settlements--he had not offered any criticism. "Everyone who perused our peace plan had nothing but high praise for it," the prime minister said.

Both in his appearance at the synagogue before Swiss Jews, and at the dinner attended by 240 Jewish leaders from 11 West European countries, the prime minister won the heart of his audience. The Swiss Jews assembled at the synagogue--a community well known for its apathy--applauded enthusiastically when Mr Begin explained he couldn't help reacting to attacks against Israel and Jews in the Egyptian press. "I shall always defend the honor of Israel and of the Jewish nation. The time is past when Jews could be called shylocks. We shall no longer permit that the Jews be debased," proclaimed Mr Begin. The prime minister recalled with particular bitterness the matter of President as-Sadat's promise that Egyptian troops would not cross the Jiddi and Mitla passes. "While speaking in a synagogue, I repeat and declare that this was a pledge given to me by As-Sadat without any reservations or limitations."

At a banquet attended by European Jewish leaders the prime minister brought up his plan for the liquidation of slums, in which 45,000 Israeli families are still living. Despite the economic difficulties that are now being felt in Europe, the diners increased their contributions, under the impact of the prime minister's words, by 90 percent--and pledged on the spot to give to the United Jewish Appeal $8.2 million.

Mr Begin is about to end his visit in Geneva and to return to Israel.

WEIZMAN BRIEFED ON PROGRESS OF 'ARYE' DEVELOPMENT

TA091430Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 9 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Some 250 million Israeli pounds has already been invested in the development of the Arye, the aircraft of the future of Israel's Aviation Industry [IAI], although the cabinet has not yet approved the plan. This transpired when the development plans of the aircraft were presented for the first time to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. The defense minister did not order the suspension of the development of the new aircraft and promised to hold an exhaustive discussion on the subject after his return from the United States.

The designs were presented while the minister was visiting the aviation industries with his deputy, Mordekhay Zippori, and the ministry's director general, Prof Pinhas Zusman. The designs of the Arye were presented by IAI Director General Gavri'el Gidor, director of the engineering division Moshe Blumkin and by Arye project director Ya'aqov Ben-Best.

The design and development of the Arye began in 1974. At first money was allotted by the Defense Ministry, but later finanacing from the ministry was discontinued. Further investments came from internal budgets under an arrangement and understanding between former IAI Director General Al Shwimmer and former Defense Minister Shim'on Peres. The issue was brought to the Board of Directors; formally, however, it did not then approve further investments.

Mr Weizman was told that the investments to date have reached 250 million Israeli pounds and that investments to develop the plane are estimated at from $440 to 500 million. The defense minister was also told that experts, on the basis of tests, believe the Arye has a good chance to prove superior in several spheres to any fighter plane extant today. The purchase of an engine for the Arye or its local production under licence are still under discussion.

Mr Weizman showed much interest in the technological and operational qualities of the Arye. It is reported from the Defense Ministry that for the time being the IAI will continue with the development as it has done to date. Minister Weizman's visit did not change anything in that regard, but further discussions will be held. Weizman's visit to the United States is likely to affect the decision that will be made.

BETHLEHEM MAYOR COMMENTS ON INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION

TA071533Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Feb 78 TA

[Text] The mayor of Bethlehem, Elyas Frayj, says that Israel's plan to grant independent administration to the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria is not an answer to As-Sadat's initiative, because the governmental offices and the civil law establishment in the territories are in any case in Arab hands. In a conversation with our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari, the Bethlehem mayor called on Israel not to interfere with the negotiating process by establishing settlements.

To As-Sadat's proposal that the Palestinian state should be linked to Jordan, the mayor said that only the inhabitants of the territories could decide on their future. However, he also considered that they ought to also maintain a connection with Jordan and should also open borders with Israel. Only neighborly relations and the establishment of a market common to both the territories and Israel, on a basis of equality, would guarantee Israel its security, Elyas Frayj said.

EXPLOSION REPORTED IN JERUSALEM; NO DAMAGE

TA010237Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Feb 78 TA

[Text] A small explosive charge went off in the supermarket on Agron Street in Jerusalem at noon. There were no injuries or damage.

The police have opened an investigation.

ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED

LD090006Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Just as we said during this hour's newscast, the deputy director of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO], in an interview with our correspondent, has described the activities of the IAEO pertaining to securing the raw materials required by atomic powerstations and the setting up of the main headquarters of the IAEO in Isfahan. You will now hear this interview: [begin recording]

[Question] Mr (Rafi-zadeh), what activities have taken place with regard to securing fuels for the atomic powerstations?

[Answer] The activities which have taken place so far cover three aspects: prospecting activities, that is, finding domestic uranium sources so that we may attain self-sufficiency in fuel; there is a question of a fuel unit, the aim of which is to convert uranium, which comes from domestic sources, to nuclear fuel. In other words, the phases of the extraction and conversion of this fuel; and a unit for storing nuclear [words indistinct].

[Question] In the field of prospecting for uranium, what measures have been taken and have we obtained any results?

[Answer] I really cannot say, since prospecting activities are still going on and will reach the final phase toward the end of the current year. The operations conducted on the whole consist of serial prospecting, which will be followed first with ground prospecting with the use of vehicles and helicopters. And so far, perhaps some 300,000 square km have been prospected, and by the end of the current year this area will reach some 600,000 to 700,000 squar km. Of course, the results of preliminary prospecting will be corroborated in laboratories and once this happens we shall be able to work out, in effect, a map of uranium sources in Iran.

[Question] From where are we at present getting the fuel needed by the powerstations?

[Answer] In accordance with the policy pursued toward this end at the behest of the shah, we have never confined ourselves to a single source, and various sources have been taken into consideration in order to meet the future needs of Iranian powerstations for fuel, and, in certain instances, the IAEO has participated in the operations of these [passage indistinct].

[Question] When the installations are set up near Isfahan, will the radioactive waste and radiation cause any problems for the people of Isfahan?

[Answer] No, under no circumstances! I even dare say that from the standpoint of any pollution that we consider, even nonradioactive pollution, this will under no circumstances approximate the pollution that might be brought about by other factories in Isfahan, since the precautionary and preventive measures which are to be taken in this respect are so stringent that nothing except clean air shall emanate from the units.

INDIA

MONGOLIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, VAJPAYEE SPEAK AT BANQUET

BK1010511Y Delhi ISI in English 0836 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Minister of External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee held a dinner in honour of H.E. Mangalyn Dugersuren, the foreign minister of the Mongolian People's Republic, in New Delhi on February 8. Proposing the toast, Vajpayee said:

Your Excellency Mangalyn Dugersuren and friends:

It gives me great happiness to welcome Your Excellency and our friends from the Mongolian People's Republic here this evening. I recall with warmth our meeting at New York during the last session of the UN General Assembly and the benefit of the exchange of views with Your Excellency. I am very glad that the invitation to visit India which I had the personal pleasure of extending to Your Excellency has come to fruition with your visit now.

Your Excellency, you are no stranger to India. You have distinguished yourself in India as the ambassador of the Mongolian People's Republic from 1958 to 1962. As such you are fully familiar with the happenings of those years, which have significance, not only for India and Mongolia, but for the whole world. The events of those years brought in their wake the consequences which have had far-reaching implications for international relations.

While change is the inevitable law of nature, transcending ideologies and past perceptions and, while the world environment of today is so different from the decades of the late 50's and 60's, we can justifiably claim that nonalignment has, by its very consistency and rationale, provided the basis for the forces of detente, cooperation, mutual accommodation and constructive coexistence coming together. Our experience over the last 30 years has served to underline the basic correctness and continuing validity of nonalignment. It is a matter of profound satisfaction to us that the Mongolian People's Republic has throughout understood and appreciated our policies, has extended support and sympathy in our difficulties and equally rejoiced in our successes.

In the 15 years since Your Excellency left India, you would have found that our people have taken some significant strides in the direction of economic, scientific, technological and social progress. We are fully conscious that we have a very long road to traverse to ensure to our vast population a minimum standard of economic security and well-being. Despite this, we feel that our strength is the stability and wisdom of our society and the wide spectrum of our economic and technical achievements.

The recent reassertion by the people of India of their abiding faith in our system of government is an event of profound magnitude. In carrying the onerous mandate given to our new government, I and my colleagues are fortified with the knowledge that our people have enormous resources of inner strength--political, economic and social.

In our approach to foreign affairs, what we would continue to envision and contribute to is the strengthening of an international community of equal and sovereign nations, enriching each other with their national assets, economic, scientific and technological achievements, as well as with their rich cultures and heritage.

While following the policy of beneficial bilateralism with all countries we have attached priority to improving relations between India and her immediate neighbours. In this spirit our attempt is to forge closer ties of friendship, remove past misunderstandings and explore fresh areas of mutually advantageous cooperation in the region.

India and Mongolia are ancient lands of the ancient people of Asia. The history of cultural collaboration between India and Mongolia is most fascinating and unique and is as old as the history of the spread of Indian culture and ideas into central Asia and Siberia. We in India consider the Mongolian veneration of Sanskrit a matter of special privilege. We hold the people of Mongolia in high esteem for preserving in translation as well as in manuscripts a vast collection of our precious Sanskrit texts on our philosophy, poetics, logic and astronomy lost by us over the centuries. This material is of unique value in the understanding of our ancient culture as well as in the reconstruction of our ancient history, the history of our literature, the history of our system of medicine and the history of our philosophy. In modern times too, many Mongolians visited India--the holy land of Buddhism. For instance, Agvan Balden and Agvan Dorjiev. Their accounts are of special importance in respect of the social conditions in our country.

Relations between India and Mongolia have been traditionally close and cordial. Though our two countries are separated by great physical distance, this has not prevented us from sharing perception regarding the fast changing international situation. Since the stationing of resident missions in each other's country, our constructive cooperation in the field of trade, culture and scientific exchange has greatly increased.

During the course of Your Excellency's visit to India, our hopes to intensify these exchanges further would find concrete shape with the signing of the two agreements between our two countries on trade and cultural and scientific exchanges. It is also a matter of satisfaction to us that in the various international organisations and in the United Nations our two delegations keep in close contact and cooperate in the spirit of the hopes and ideals which our two countries cherish.

We in India rejoice in the political, economic, social and scientific progress of the Mongolian People's Republic under the leadership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party founded by Suhe Baatar. Over the years your country has brought about a transformation from a purely agrarian society to a modern agrarian industrial state, which plays a very constructive role in the international councils.

Indo-Mongolian relations serve as a shining example of how two Asian countries with different social and political systems can join hands in the quest for an equitable and just international order in the search for peace, harmony and wider cooperation.

I would now like to propose a toast--to the health of the chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic, His Excellency Tsedenbal; to the health of the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic, His Excellency J. Batmonh; to the health of our honoured guest the foreign minister of Mongolian People's Republic, His Excellency Dugersuren; to the health of the members of his party; to the further growth of the warm and friendly relations between the government and peoples of India and the Mongolian People's Republic; to the prosperity and well-being of the peoples of the Mongolian People's Republic.

Replying to the toast, H.E. Dugeruren said:

Your Excellency Minister of External Affairs, esteemed cabinet members of the Government of India, ladies and gentlemen:

Permit me first of all to express my deep gratitude to Your Excellency and your government for the kind invitation to pay an official visit to your great country and for the warm and cordial welcome and hospitality extended to me and the members of my party.

We feel very much honoured to have this opportunity of visiting India, this ancient cradle of civilisation and a great peace-loving nation with which my country, Mongolia, enjoys long standing ties of friendship.

India celebrated not long ago the 30th anniversary of its independence and very recently the Republic Day. These years your great people have scored impressive achievements in various fields of life. What we have seen here, especially the Beas Sutleu multi-purpose project and the Indian Engineering Trade Fair, vividly demonstrate the magnitude of India's economic progress and technological skill and the determination of her people to turn their country into an advanced society.

I wish to say here that we in Mongolia sincerely rejoice at the success accomplished by the people of India in further strengthening their national independence and in attaining continued economic progress. The government and people of Mongolia also highly appreciate the peace-loving foreign policy of India, its valuable contribution to the cause of peace,national independence and social progress of the peoples. This policy has won a high reputation for India in the international arena.

Excellency, Mongolia and India are peace-loving nations. Our two countries are committed to the cause of international detente, universal peace and security. Detente should be supported and enhanced by effective measures for stopping the arms race, for bringing about real disarmament, nuclear disarmament in the first place. It should be strengthened also by developing the mutually advantageous and equitable cooperation among the nations. Mongolia and India are vitally interested in strengthening the peace and security on our Asian Continent. I am of the view that broadening in every way contacts between the Asian countries and the exchange of views and ideas on matters of common interest are of paramount importance for the strengthening of mutual understanding and trust among the peoples and states of Asia.

Ladies and gentlemen, the friendly relations between Mongolia and India are developing successfully year by year on the basis of the principles of the Mongolian-Indian joint declaration of 1973 which was signed during the memorable visit of our leader Comrade Y. Tsedenbal to India.

In conclusion, I express to Your Excellency our grateful thanks for the warmth of your friendly feelings as well as for the kind words addressed to my country and people.

Durgersuren Leaves for Nepal

BK101128Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Mongolian foreign minister, Mr Mangalyn Dugersuren, has expressed happiness over the identity of views achieved during his talks with the Indian leaders on bilateral and international matters. Speaking to newsmen at the airportbefore leaving for Katmandu, he said the two agreements on trade and cultural exchanges will strengthen the friendship between the two countries.

Mr Mangalyn Dugersuren praised India for its initiative in strengthening its relations with its neighbors. He also said he was impressed by India's progress.

CSSR METALLURGY MINISTER TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

BK031623Y Delhi ISI in English 1447 GMT 3 Feb 78 BK

[Text] A Czechoslovak delegation led by Z. Pucek, minister of metallurgy and heavy engineering of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic had detailed discussions with the Indian delegation led by the Union Minister of Industry George Fernandes in New Delhi on 2 February. Secretary of Heavy Industry V. Krishnamurthy, Secretary of Steel and Mines Mieosh Sondhi, chairman of the Heavy Engineering Corporation [HEC], chairman of the Cement Corporation of India, and representatives of other ministries and organisations of the Government of India participated in the talks.

The two sides agreed on a programme for utilisation of the capacities of the HEC for the supply of rolling mill and coke oven equipment to Czechoslovakia and third countries. As part of complementary cooperation for utilisation of HEC's capacities and other Czechoslovak assisted projects in India like the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in Hyderabad [BHEL], it was agredd that a programme for the manufacture of large capacity cement plants would be evolved in order to commission cement plants in India in the shortest possible time.

Other areas of cooperation will be discussed during the talks being held in the next few days. A protocol between the two countries will be signed on 8 February 1978.

The delegation is also visiting the HEC, Ranchi, the Bokaro steel project and the BHEL unit in Hyderabad.

The Czechoslovak delegation arrived in New Delhi on 1 February and was received at the airport by George Fernandes.

The visiting Czechoslovak minister called on Union Minister of Steel and Mines Biju Patnaik.

Pucek outlined the capabilities and achievements of his country in the field of steel, metallurgy and mining. He made particular mention of the Czechoslovak expertise in the field of nuclear power plants. Among the factors responsible for Czechoslovakia's high efficiency in steel production he mentioned the use of superior coking coal with an ash content of only 6 percent. This coal was produced from the country's own coal mines.

Pucek further expressed his keen interest in the setting up of large coke oven plants and blast furnaces and said that he placed India first in the sphere of international cooperation. Pucek said that his country would be interested in taking equipment for new coke oven plants as well as for expansion from India.

Patnaik welcomed the Czechoslovak minister and offered full cooperation with Czechoslovakia in the field of steel plant equipment and consultancy services. In this context he proposed Indo-Czechoslovak collaboration for projects in third countries. Patnaik told the Czechoslovak minister that the HEC had already supplied equipments to third countries under the collaboration agreement with the USSR and these equipments were working very well. The metallurgical and engineering consultants [MECON], a consultancy organisation under the Ministry of Steel and Mines, was also taking up work for erection of 7.5-meter high coke ovens in West Germany.

The advantage to other countries in buying Indian equipment and plants consisted in the low cost and high expertise that India could provide, he said. The minister stressed that Czechoslovakia could also take advantage of this for third country cooperation. He suggested that the Czechoslovak team should also visit the Bokaro steel plant after their visit to Ranchi as it could provide them an opportunity of seeing at first hand India's capabilities in the field of steel plants.

Patnaik mentioned that the Bokaro steel plant had been predominantly designed and erected by Indian expertise and technology. It was explained by him that the 2,000 cubic feet blast furnaces of Soviet design at Bokaro were working very satisfactorily. Since the Czechoslovak minister was interested in the erection of such a blast furnace in his country Patnaik suggested that it could be fabricated in India and supplied to them.

He told the visiting minister that the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited, MECON and HEC were building not only steel plants but also equipment for other industries as complete expertise in these lines was available with them. MECON also had an agreement with Alusuisse of Switzerland for cooperation in setting up plants in third countries he said. Patnaik expressed the hope that there would be close cooperation between India and Czechoslovakia in these fields for mutual benefit.

The Czechoslovak minister also called on Minster for Petroleum and Chemicals and Fertilisers H.N. Bahuguna and discussed with him matters of mutual interest between the two countries.

Bahuguna explained to the Czechoslovak minister the progress made by India in various fields, particularly in the area of oil exploration. Bahuguna also said that India had developed great capabilities in the laying of oil pipelines and setting up of fertiliser and petrochemical plants. The country had also the know-how to set up drug and pharmaceutical units.

India's trade with Czechoslovakia has been gradually increasing over the years. The value of the two-way trade in 1977 was estimated worth rupees 895 million as compared to 847 million in 1976 and rupees 763 million in 1975.

India's main items of import from Czechoslovakia are steel and steel products, newsprint-seamless pipes, tubes and casings, machine tools, urea, organic and inorganic chemicals [word indistinct], textile machinery, shoemaking, tanning and leathermaking machinery, components, spares, tires and tubes for tractors, capital goods and components for Czech assisted projects.

Commodities exported to Czechoslovakia are predominantly traditional like deoiled cakes, coffee, pepper, cotton, yarn, iron ore, jute manufactures, tanned and semi-tanned hides and skins, mica, manganese ore, castor oil and shellac. A beginning has been made with the export of nontraditional items like finished leather, woollens, synthetic fabrics, readymade garments, machine tools and hand tools and other engineering goods. In 1976 traditional items constituted nearly 80 percent of the total exports from India to Czechoslovakia.

PRC TO INVITE DESAI, VAJPAYEE ON OFFICIAL VISIT

AU091619Y Rome ANSA in English 1538 GMT 9 Feb 78 AU

[Text] New Delhi, February 9 (ANSA)--In order to further develop friendly relations between China and India, Peking is about to extend an invitation to Prime Minister Morarji Desai (?and) to Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for an official visit to China, according to well-informed sources here.

According to the sources, the message is to be brought here by Wang Ping-nan, president of the Chinese Association for Friendship with Foreign Nations. Wang Ping-nan, who is also a member of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, is to arrive in India at the head of a delegation at the invitation of the Indian committee for commemorations of Doctor (Vapis), head of the Indian medical units which followed the Chinese Liberation Army and who died on the battlefield. Wang Ping-nan was Chinese ambassador to Budapest and the main Chinese protagonist in the Sino-American dialogue which led to the visit of former President Richard Nixon to China.

The Indian Government is allegedly very interested, according to the sources, in normalizing its relations with Peking. A member of the Indian Foreign Ministry said that India "would take advantage of the first chance to negotiate with China the solution of territorial disputes between the two countries."

It was also learned that in contacts at various levels between the governments of the two countries, China has let it be understood that the border disputes could be solved through negotiations and there has allegedly been mention of a "joint strategy" against "imperialists and social imperialists"--(United States and Soviet Union). Observers here have stressed that a development of relations in this direction could lead to a "defrost" in Asia of such proportions as to cause a radical change in the political alliance of the entire continent.

USSR TO SUPPLY 1.5 MILLION TONS OF CRUDE OIL

BK040821Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Soviet Union will supply 1.5 million tons of crude oil to India this year. A contract to this effect was signed in New Delhi. The agreement is in accordance with the trade agreement for the period 1978-80 under which the Soviet Union is to supply 4.5 million tons of crude in these 3 years.

OFFICIAL CHARGES ANANDA MARGIS WITH ASSAULT INCIDENT

BK101139Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Mr Jyoti Sarup Vaid, a personal secretary to the Indian charge d'affaires in Manila, has identified two Americans who are alleged to have stabbed him in the chest and throat last Tuesday. According to police they are Steven Michael Dwyer, and Victoria Sheppard.

The Indian charge d'affaires, Mr Dilip Lahiri, later told newsmen in Manila that the Americans are members of the Ananda Margis.

GANDHI ADMITS CONGRESS-I CHANCES POOR IN ELECTIONS

BK100931Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Congress-I leader, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has said she does not see the fall of the Janata Party government at the center in the near future. She was speaking to newsmen at Calcutta on her way to Gauhati. Mrs Gandhi said there is no chance for her party coming to power in the near future, nor does she have plans to contest any election.

Mrs Gandhi claimed that her party is the real Congress and the majority of workers are with it. She admitted that the majority of MP's and MLA's [members of legislative assembly] might be with the Congress led by Mr Brahmananda Reddy.

NEPAL

RISING NEPAL COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES IN SPACE

BK091602Y Katmandu the RISING NEPAL in English 30 Jan 78 p 4 BK

[Editorial: "Need for Precaution"]

[Text] The crash last Tuesday [24 January] of the nuclear powered Soviet satellite Cosmos 954 would perhaps have gone unnoticed, except by the countries immediately concerned, had not the self-destructive mechanism said to be installed in the satellite malfunctioned and the possibility of nuclear radiation in the scene of the crash not been raised. Apologies and efforts at locating and preventing the actual extent of the damage aside, the need for much more precaution in nuclear activities in space, which keeps within the premises of a realistic appraisal of possible repercussions on mankind and his environs that has been underscored in this sad incident should certainly not be ignored.

The need for concrete and effective precautionary steps in space activities that would make up to any shortcomings in existing international agreements on space, appears to have been made further urgent in the possibilities that the present crash may certainly not be the only one of its kind as the U.S. President's recent admission on the destruction of U.S. satellites makes evident. While this certainly is not underplaying the tremendous achievements that have been made in space technology and its potential benefits to mankind, there is no need not to cover lost grounds in preventive steps that could render such activities safe than it is at present. [sentence as published] And that all is not as it should be is easily apparent in the crash of Cosmos 954.

Indeed, legitimate concern and proper follow-ups would seem necessary here, if nothing, on grounds that the scene of such crashes could well have been in far more populated areas than some obscure Canadian locality three hundred and twenty kilometres removed from civilisation. And much certainly could go in the way of the choice of type of nuclear fuel and further checks towards minimising possibilities of potentially dangerous satellites from entering the immediate reaches of mankind, as also early warning systems when they do. [as published] One cannot surely leave technological breakdown in such volatile matters to sheer happenstance and leave it at that.

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